

Did you know...



Children are very curious about the world around them. They want to know about the weather, how things work, facts about animals, etc. Nonfiction, or information books, help children learn about the things that interest them.

Nonfiction books should have a lot of photos or drawings to help children see what they are reading about. If there are a lot of words on each page it isn't necessary to read every one. Read the main points on each page and then ask questions to see what your child is interested in.

Don't hesitate to read the higher level vocabulary that is often in nonfiction books. Your child needs to be exposed to a variety of vocabulary words to have the background knowledge they will need to succeed in school.

Here's how...

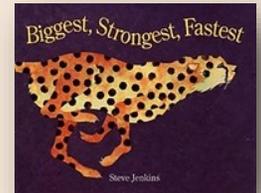


- ✦ Make opportunities for your child to be out in the natural world. Take walks through the woods, splash in a creek, go to a park. Children this age love to explore, so get outside and enjoy some time in nature.
- ✦ Go to your local library and check out books about the things your child is interested in. Whether it is dinosaurs or the solar system, libraries can provide a wealth of books about any topic.
- ✦ Ask your child questions about the book by having them look at the pictures. They provide a lot of clues about the content of the book.

Read



Biggest, Strongest, Fastest, by Steve Jenkins



Beautiful paper cut-outs illustrate this picture book about some of the "biggest and smallest, fastest and slowest, strongest and longest" record holders in the animal world. Children will want to read about these amazing facts over and over again!

Choose Books



If your child enjoyed this book, check out some of these other books by Steve Jenkins:

Big and Little

What Do You Do with a Tail Like This?

Sisters and Brothers

What Do You Do When Something Wants to Eat You?

Time for a Bath

Almost Gone: The World's Rarest Animals

How Many Ways Can You Catch a Fly?

Never Smile at a Monkey

The Beetle Book

Down Down Down

How to Swallow a Pig: Step by step advice from the animal kingdom

Flying Frogs and Walking Fish

New in 2017: *Who Am I? An Animal Guessing Game*

Why kids need nonfiction

- Information books and magazines play an important part in motivating children to read.
- Information books expose children to special words and concepts, which helps build language.
- Children at this age are learning to read; in a few years they will begin to focus more on “reading to learn.” Helping your children enjoy nonfiction books at this age will help them feel more comfortable with the informational text they will read in higher grades.

Write



Author/illustrator Steve Jenkins makes his pictures by cutting and tearing different kinds of paper and layering them into shapes, called “collage.” You can help your child make a collage with simple materials:

- A sheet of blank paper or cardboard
- Lots of different kinds of paper (junk mail, newspaper, magazines, tissue paper, etc.)
- Non-toxic glue or homemade paste (mix a little flour and water together)
- Safety scissors (or just tear the paper)

Cutting and tearing strengthen the little muscles in your child’s fingers needed to hold a pencil.

Play



At this age children measure things by comparing size, length and weight. Find five objects around the house. Ask your child to arrange them in order from “smallest,” to “biggest.” If this is easy, choose one object and ask your child to find something in the house that is bigger, smaller, and about the same size. This activity also helps children build vocabulary.



Sing



We’re Going to the Zoo

(to the tune of “Farmer in the Dell”)

We’re going to the zoo,
We’re going to the zoo!
Hi, ho, it’s off we go,
We’re going to the zoo!

We’ll see some monkeys there,
We’ll see some monkeys there.
Swinging, climbing in the trees,
We’ll see some monkeys there!

Repeat with these animals and actions:

... tigers... Roaring, pouncing, playing about...
... penguins... Waddling, diving, swimming around...

Hear tune at <http://bussongs.com/songs/the-farmer-in-the-dell.php>



At your library...



Libraries are helping young children develop science, technology, engineering, and mathematics skills. Contact your library to learn more about STEM programs, and be sure to visit www.stemgame.lili.org for a fun online game to play with your child!