

## Did you know...



Research shows that children who know and understand lots of different words become better readers. Building a strong “vocabulary” helps children recognize and read written words, and later use them in their writing.

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. They also have a lot of new vocabulary in them. Don't skip over the scientific or big vocabulary words. Your child needs to hear new words multiple times before they're able to use them with confidence.

There are some high-quality children's nature magazines that can be another source of information for your child.

## Here's how...

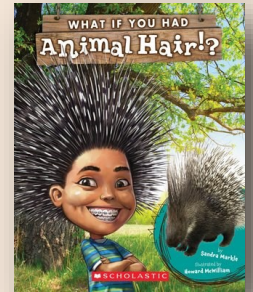


- ✦ Talk to your child about what is going on around them. Talk about how things work, feelings and ideas. Listen when your child talks to you.
- ✦ Speak in the language most comfortable to you.
- ✦ Take field trips to parks, museums, zoos, aquariums, or other natural settings. Create opportunities for your child to explore nature.
- ✦ Check out nonfiction books from the library. They are full of great photos or art that will engage your child's curiosity and teach them new words.

## Read

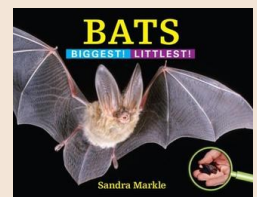
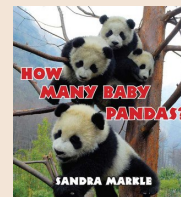


### **What if You Had Animal Hair?** by Sandra Markel



Imagine if you had polar bear hair. You would never have to wear a coat while playing in the snow. Introduce your child to some unusual animals and learn how they use their hair to help them survive.

More great books by Sandra Markel...



## Choose Books

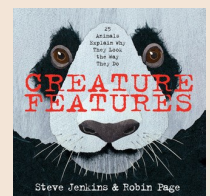


### More information books...

*A Chicken Followed Me Home!: Questions and Answers about a Familiar Fowl*, by Robin Page



*Creature Features: Twenty-Five Animals Explain Why They Look the Way They Do*, by Steve Jenkins & Robin Page



*Feathers: Not Just for Flying*, by Melissa Stewart

*Icky Bug Shapes*, by Jerry Pallotta

## Why kids need nonfiction



- Information books and magazines can play an important part in motivating children to read.
- There are some great, high-quality information books available for children of all ages.
- Many kids enjoy information books as much as story books.
- Nonfiction can be a way for parents to share their interests with their children.
- Information books expose children to special vocabulary and concepts, which helps build language.
- Reading nonfiction now can help children prepare for reading these types of books later in life.

## Write



Homemade books are a great way for your child to practice writing. Staple several sheets of paper together and help your child make a “My Favorite Animals” book. On each page your child can draw a favorite animal, then write the phrase “I like \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_. Writing repeated simple phrases such as this one helps children become confident writers.

I like cats because they purr.



## Play



### Stuffed Animal Picnic

Even though life can be very busy it's so important to spend a little time playing with your child each day. Consider turning lunchtime one day this month into an indoor picnic for you, your child, and some of their favorite stuffed friends. Pack a simple lunch in a basket, then go on a “safari” through the house to find your perfect picnic spot. Lay out your picnic and enjoy some down time together.



## Sing



### Down by the Bay

Down by the bay  
Where the watermelons grow  
Back to my home  
I dare not go  
For if I do  
My mother will say,  
"Did you ever see a bear, combing his hair,  
Down by the bay?"

*Repeat, adding different rhymes each time:*  
Did you ever see a bee, with a sunburned knee...  
Did you ever see a whale, with a polka dot tail...

*Now add some of your own rhymes!*  
Did you ever see a cat, \_\_\_\_\_  
Did you ever see a bug, \_\_\_\_\_  
Did you ever see a dog, \_\_\_\_\_

Hear this song at

[www.thelearninggroove.com/down-by-the-bay](http://www.thelearninggroove.com/down-by-the-bay)

## At your library...



Don't have access to a computer? Many libraries do not require a library card in order to use the computers. Some even offer free computer classes.