

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...

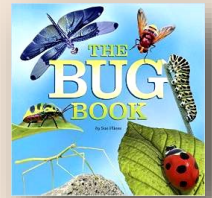


- ❖ Make opportunities for your child to be out in the natural world. Take walks through the woods, splash in a creek, go to a park. Children this age love to explore, so get outside and enjoy some time in nature.
- ❖ Go to your local library and check out books about the things your child is interested 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



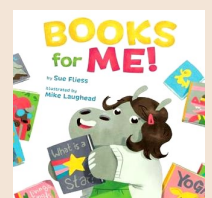
The Bug Book, by Sue Fliess



Children will love the colorful photographs of oh-so-many bugs. This fun rhyming book will help you and your child catch the reading bug!

Information books, ("nonfiction" books) are very popular with preschoolers. See more on page 2.

Sue Fliess has also written:



Choosing Books



More nonfiction books to read...

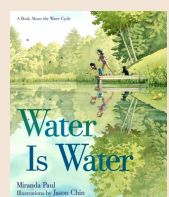
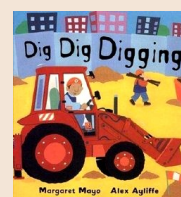
Birds, Nests, and Eggs (Take Along Guides), by Mel Boring

Dig, Dig, Digging, by Margaret Mayo

Frogs, by Nic Bishop

Stripes of All Types, by Susan Stockdale

Water is Water: A Book About the Water Cycle, by Miranda Paul



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 and Play



Here is an activity to strengthen little finger muscles:

Provide paper and watercolor paints, washable stamp pads, or washable markers (these wipe off of fingers a bit easier). Let your child dip fingertips in wet watercolors, or color their fingertip with marker, then immediately press on paper. When prints are dry, give your child crayons, markers, or pens to draw on prints, making them into bugs, flowers, faces, etc.

Optional: Help your child label their creations, or write a sentence about each one.

Tip: You can find inexpensive materials at your local Dollar Store.



Sing



The Ants Go Marching

The ants go marching one by one,
Hurrah, hurrah.
The ants go marching one by one,
Hurrah, hurrah.
The ants go marching one by one,
The little one stops to suck his thumb.
And they all go marching down
Into the ground
To get out of the rain.
BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Additional verses:

The ants go marching two by two... the little one
stops to tie her shoe...
Three by three... climb a tree...
Four by four... shut the door...
Five by five... take a dive...

Hear a version of this song at

www.thelearninggroove.com/ants-go-marching



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.