



For ages
3-5

The Bookworm



From your
local library
and Idaho's Read
to Me program

March 2012

Awareness of Print

Being familiar with printed words helps children feel comfortable with books and understand that print is useful. It is one of the six early literacy skills that help young children become readers.

Here are some ways to help your child develop print awareness:

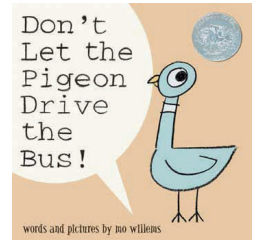
- Show children that print is all around them. Point it out in signs, on menus, and in books and newspapers.
- Run your finger along the bottom of words while reading. This helps children understand that print runs from left to right and that you are reading text rather than looking at pictures.
- Point to some words as you say them, especially words that are repeated.
- Label objects around your home, such as "bed," "window," "door," and "toys."
- Let your child turn the pages. When you are done reading, let her hold the book and tell you the story.
- Talk about and play with punctuation marks. Show your child what an exclamation mark and a question mark are, and why you read those sentences differently (see page 2).
- Encourage children to play with print every day. Help them make lists, write notes, make signs, etc.

Children with print awareness understand that print has different functions; menus list food choices, a book tells a story, a sign can show a favorite restaurant or warn of danger.

Book of the Month

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! by Mo Willems

Though the bus driver has warned us, "Don't let the pigeon drive the bus!" the determined blue pigeon uses every trick in the book from whining to temper tantrums, to convince us, the readers, to let him do just that. Will your child let Pigeon drive the bus?



Other Pigeon books:



Author/illustrator Mo Willems received a Caldecott Honor for *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus*, as well as two other books, *Knufflebunny: A Cautionary Tale* and *Knufflebunny, Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity*. He was also awarded the Theodor Seuss Geisel Medal and/or Honor Medal for four books in his Elephant and Piggie series.

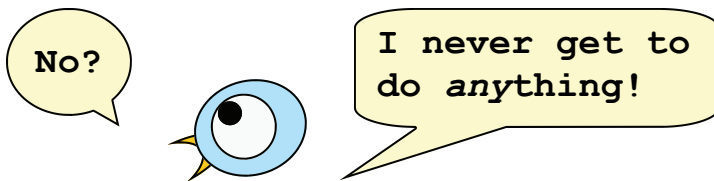
Kinds of books that develop print awareness:

- Books with lots of punctuation marks
- Books with signs, lists, labels, menus, charts, instructions, etc. as part of the illustrations
- Books in which characters are using print in different ways, such as writing a letter, or making a checklist
- Any book!

More fun with *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*

Acting up... Pigeon is very dramatic, and this is a perfect story to act out! Let your child or a favorite stuffed animal play the part of Pigeon.

Talk about it... This story is told with word bubbles. Explain to your child that word bubbles are used to show what the character is saying. Also point out the different types of punctuation marks, and show how these clues tell us how to read the words with emotion.



Out and about... To help your child become aware of print, take a walk through your neighborhood and point out things with print on them: stop signs, street signs, businesses, newsstands, bus stops, etc. Help your child read the words.

The Wheels on the Bus

The wheels on the bus go round and round,
(roll hands over each other)

Round and round, round and round.

The wheels on the bus go round and round,
All through the town.

Additional verses:

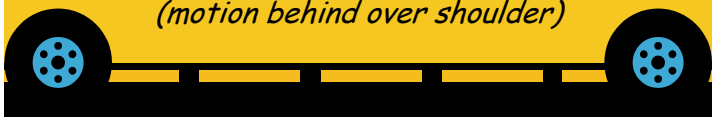
The people on the bus bounce up and down
(bounce in place)

The doors on the bus go open/shut
(move hands away from each other and back)

The babies on the bus go "Wah! Wah! Wah!"
(make crying motions)

The mommies on the bus go "Shhh! Shhh! Shhh!"
(making shhh-ing motion)

The driver on the bus says "Move on back!"
(motion behind over shoulder)



Fingerplay

(five fingers up, bend down a finger for each pigeon that flies away)

Five little pigeons, flying around our door,
The **blue** one flew away,
and then there were four.

Four little pigeons sitting in a tree,
The **yellow** one flew away,
and then there were three.

The little pigeons didn't know what to do,
So the **red** one flew away,
and then there were two.

Two little pigeons sitting in the sun,
The **brown** one flew away, and there was one.

The little **green** pigeon felt so all alone,
He/she flew away,
and then there were none.



Later on that very day,
five little pigeons came back to play.

What your library can do for you...

Your library offers many services for teens and adults, too. Visit your library's website for information about job searches, audio or electronic books, DVDs, special programs, book reviews, and much more!

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