

Did you know...



Children with print awareness understand that print has different functions; for example, menus list food choices, a book tells a story, a sign can point to a favorite restaurant or warn of danger. Show children that print is all around them. Point it out when you are out in the community, or around the house.

It takes time and practice for children to understand that letters are symbols that create words, and that words represent things. Model for your child how to hold a book, and that you read a sentence from left to right. Running your finger under the words as you read shows them to read from the top to the bottom of the page. Make a game of these skills to keep it fun!

Here's how...

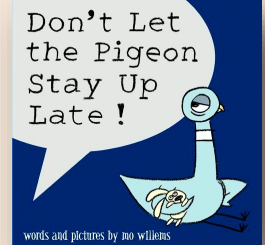


- ✦ Have a special box or drawer with materials that your child can use for writing and drawing.
- ✦ Create writing kits filled with different types of paper, envelopes, labels and stickers, greeting cards, note pads, and a variety of writing tools.
- ✦ Junk mail can be a treasure trove for your child. Save envelopes, labels, stickers, or small writing pads you receive to put in your child's writing kit.
- ✦ Provide lots of experiences for writing practice—let your child write with her finger in pudding or shaving cream on a flat surface, draw in sand or dry Jell-O in a flat box or pan, write letters with paint and a paint brush, use sidewalk chalk.

Read

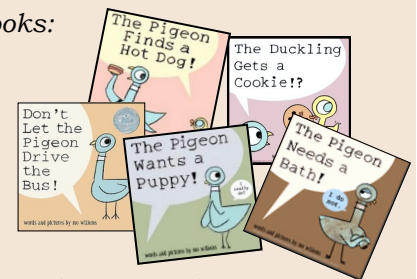


“Don't Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late” by Mo Willems



Needing to brush his teeth, the bus driver asks us, the readers, not to let the pigeon stay up late— but sleepy Pigeon tries every trick in the book to convince us to do just that. Will your child let Pigeon stay up late?

More Pigeon books:



If your child likes Pigeon, meet more lovable characters from award-winning author/illustrator Mo Willems at your library.

And find books, play games, and laugh out loud at www.pigeonpresents.com.

Choosing Books



Books that develop awareness of print:

- 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
- Books with speech or thought bubbles
- Recipe books

Talk



When reading books with speech or thought bubbles, explain to your child that these bubbles are used to show what the character is saying or thinking. Also point out the different types of punctuation marks, and show how these clues tell us how to read the words with emotion.



Play



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

Write



Fingerplays help strengthen the little muscles in your child's fingers that will hold a pencil. Try this one:

(Put 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.

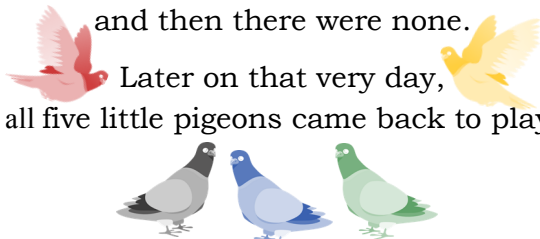
Four little pigeons sitting in a tree,
The **yellow** one flew away,
and then there were three.

The other 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,
all five little pigeons came back to play!



Sing



Sleep, Sleep My Little One A lullaby in three languages

Sing to your child, or teach the songs to your child so he/she can sing to a favorite stuffed animal or doll:

English

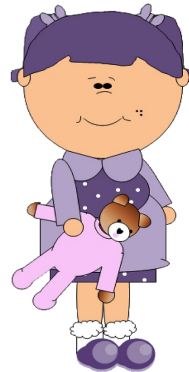
Sleep, sleep, my little one
Sleep, sleep, my little one
Sleep, sleep, my little one
Sleep now,
Sleep now.

Iroquois

Ho, ho, Watanay
Ho, ho, Watanay
Ho, ho, Watanay
Ki-yo-ki-na
Ki-yo-ki-na

French

Do, do, mon petit
Do, do, mon petit
Do, do, mon petit
Et bonne nuit,
et bonne nuit.



Hear songs at <https://tinyurl.com/jbrary-sleep>

At your library...



Don't have a library card? You can still visit your library for storytimes or to read with your child. Ask your librarian about how to apply for your own card today!