

Did you know ...



Children love to learn about and explore the world around them. Information, or nonfiction, books are one way they can do this. Information books contain photos or drawings that show animals, vehicles, people, etc. This helps children make connections to what they see and hear. Information books also introduce children to a lot of words that will help build their vocabularies. Knowing many words will help your child recognize and understand written words and language when it is time to learn to read.

Some information books have more words than young children can sit and listen to. It is okay to look at the pictures and talk about them or read the main text on the page without reading all of the words. Young children like to point to things that interest them, so take that as a clue about what to spend time on while you read information books.

Here's how ...



- ✦ Create a book that has pictures of family, friends, and pets. Glue photos onto sheets of paper or use a photo album or scrapbook. Write each person's name next to their picture and let your child look at it often to learn familiar people's names.
- ✦ Check out books from your local library about the things your child is interested in. Is it cars, dogs, or balls? You can search by topic in your library's catalog for the things your child loves.
- ✦ Information books can teach concepts such as numbers, colors, shapes, opposites, etc. It is good for your young child to be introduced to these concepts so they are familiar with them when they go to school.
- ✦ Find information books in the language you speak at home.

Read



Things That Go / Cosas que se mueven from Sterling Publishing



Start your engines and discover things that go in these colorful photos and words in English and Spanish. When reading this book to babies and toddlers, talk about the objects on the page and use lots of words to describe what is there. "This red dump truck uses wheels to go. People fill up the back with dirt, drive it to a new place, and then the back lifts up to dump the dirt out."

More books in the Say and Play series:



Choosing Books



More information books...

Backyard Bugs by Jill McDonald

Construction Site by Jonny Lambert

Look and Learn: Same and Different? by National Geographic

Stripes of All Types by Susan Stockdale

Tails by Matthew Van Fleet

This Is Me by Richard Scarry

Truck by Donald Crews

Talk



Use different sounds as you and your toddler play with toys together: vehicle noises, voices for dolls and stuffed animals, and animal sounds. Encourage them to make the sounds with you.

Ready to Write



Playing with play dough strengthens the hand and finger muscles needed to hold writing or drawing tools. Here is an easy homemade recipe.

- 1) Combine in saucepan: 1 cup flour, 1/4 cup salt, 1 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 2) Add and whisk until smooth: 1 cup water, 1 tablespoon oil, a few drops of food coloring
- 3) Cook over medium heat until play dough starts to form a ball. Add: 1 tablespoon imitation vanilla extract
- 4) Stir until vanilla is blended, then remove and knead when cool. Store in Ziploc bag or air-tight container.

Play



Choo-Choo Train Action Rhyme

This is a choo-choo train *(bend arms at elbows)*

Puffing down the track. *(rotate arms in rhythm)*

Now it's going forward, *(step forward)*

Now it's going back. *(step back)*

Now the bell is ringing *(pull bell cord with closed fist, or tap child's nose gently)*

Now the whistle blows. *(hold fist near mouth and nose, or blow on child's head)*

What a lot of noise it makes *(cover ears)*

Everywhere it goes! *(stretch out arms)*

~From *Lapsit Services for the Very Young II*, by Linda Ernst



Sing



My Little Red Wagon

This song is based on the original Raffi song

Bumping up and down in my little red wagon.
Bumping up and down in my little red wagon.
Bumping up and down in my little red wagon.
Won't you be my darling?

Try these verses:

Bouncing up and down in my little black stroller.
Flying up and down in my little blue airplane.
Chugging up the tracks in my little yellow steam engine.
Floating down the stream in my little green rowboat.

Hear this tune from Jbrary:

<http://tinyurl.com/Jbrary-red-wagon>



At your library ...



Screen time for babies and toddlers is not recommended. However, reading an occasional picture book with your little one on your device is one way to enjoy more great stories together. Ask your library if they have e-books available to download to your computer, phone, or tablet.