

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, you don't have 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 shy away from some of the higher level words that are often in nonfiction books. Your child needs to hear lots of different kinds of words in order to learn to read later on.

Here's how...



- ✦ Make time 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 bugs or bunnies, libraries can provide books that are just right for your child.
- ✦ Ask your child questions about the book by having them look at the pictures. Pictures provide a lot of clues about the information in the book.

Read

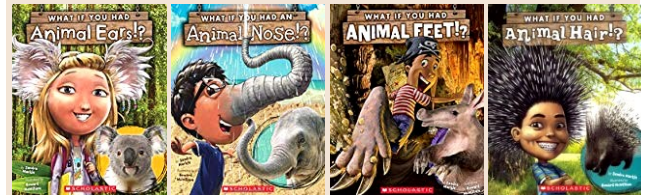


What if You Had Animal Eyes!? by Sandra Markle



If you had bullfrog eyes, a blink would let you swallow a big bite! But what if you had mongoose eyes?! Introduce your child to some unusual animals and learn how they use their eyes to help them survive.

Other books in this series:



Choose Books



Here are some books from the National Science Teachers' Outstanding Science Trade Books for Kids lists:

Maggie, Alaska's Last Elephant, by Jennifer Keats Curtis

The Frog Book, by Steve Jenkins

The Bee Book, by Charlotte Milner

Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13, by Helaine Becker

The Coral Kingdom, by Laura Knowles

Fur, Feather, Fin—All of Us Are Kin, by Diane Lang

Mae Among the Stars, by Roda Ahmed

A Place to Start a Family: Poems About Creatures that Build, by David Harrison

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.

Play and Write



Children this age love “pretend play.” This is one way they learn about the world around them, especially how print is used in everyday life. Help your child set up a pretend doctor’s office or veterinary clinic, where they can treat stuffed animals or dolls as patients. Then add ways they can write and use print:

- Make signs, an appointment book, medicine bottles, a nametag for the doctor, etc.
- Show them how to make notes on a medical chart or write a prescription.
- Make an eye chart or pretend x-rays.
- Check out books about doctors or veterinarians at the library.

Use your imagination when playing with literacy at home. You and your child will have a great time and not even realize that you are learning. Have fun playing!



Sing



We’re Going to the Zoo

(to the tune of “Farmer in the Dell”)

We’re going to the zoo,
We’re going to the zoo!
Hi, ho, it’s off we go,
We’re going to the zoo!

We’ll see some monkeys there,
We’ll see some monkeys there.
Swinging, climbing in the trees,
We’ll see some monkeys there.

We’ll see some tigers there,
We’ll see some tigers there
Roaring, pouncing, playing about,
We’ll see some tigers there.

We’ll see some penguins there,
We’ll see some penguins there.
Waddling, diving, swimming around,
We’ll see some penguins there.

Hear tune at: <https://bussongs.com/songs/the-farmer-in-the-dell>

At your library...



Idaho libraries are here to help you during the pandemic. In-person service depends on local health guidelines; however, most libraries offer pick-up service, online service, or 24-hour service such as free Wi-Fi. If you don’t have your library’s website URL, use the Idaho library locator at <https://libraries.idaho.gov/idaho-library-directory/>.