



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 for kindergarteners should have a lot of photos or real-life drawings to help children see what they are reading about. Look for books with “bite-size” pieces of information. 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 words in order to learn to read later on.

Here's how ...

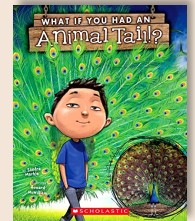


- ✿ Make time for your child to be out in the natural world. Take walks through the woods, splash in a creek, or go to a park. Children this age love to explore, so get outside and enjoy some time in nature, and see what excites them.
- ✿ Go to your local library and check out books about the things 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 a book by having them look at the pictures. Pictures provide a lot of clues about the information in the book.
- ✿ Magazines are also nonfiction. Many libraries have subscriptions to children's magazines such as *Ranger Rick* or *National Geographic Kids*.

Read

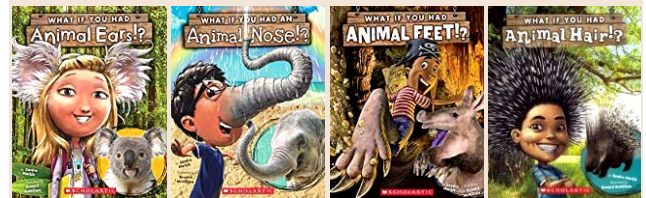


What If You Had an Animal Tail? by Sandra Markle



If you had a beaver's tail, you'd make the biggest splash in the pool! But what if you had a kangaroo's tail?! Introduce your child to some unusual animals and learn how they use their tails to help them survive.

Other books in this series:



And many more!

Choose Books



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

The Beak Book by Robin Page

The Body Book illustrated by Hannah Alice

Hello, Earth!: Poems to Our Planet by Joyce Sidman

If Bees Disappeared by Lily Williams

Over and Under the Canyon by Kate Messner

Summertime Sleepers by Melissa Stewart

The Dirt Book: Poems About Animals that Live Beneath Our Feet by David Harrison

Masters of Disguise: Camouflaging Creatures and Magnificent Mimics by Marc Martin

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



The Animal Fair

I went to the animal fair;
The birds and the beasts were there.
The big baboon by the light of the moon
Was combing his auburn hair.
The monkey bumped the skunk,
And sat on the elephant’s trunk;
The elephant sneezed and fell to his knees,
And that was the end of the monk!
The monk!



<https://bussongs.com/songs/i-went-to-the-animal-fair>

At your library ...



Electronic books and audiobooks: Screen time for preschoolers should be limited; however, reading an occasional picture book with your child on your device is one way to enjoy more great stories together. Or skip the screen—listening to audiobooks develops important early literacy skills. Ask your library about e-books and audiobooks available for checkout.