

Did you know ...



Children who can describe things and events can have conversations about what is happening in books, and those children who can tell stories are better able to understand what they hear and, later, what they read. These are called “narrative skills.”

Here's how ...

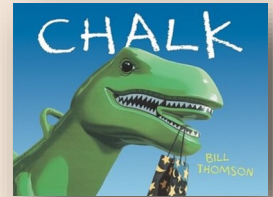


- ✦ Read books that have words or phrases that repeat. Encourage your child to say the repeated phrase with you each time.
- ✦ Re-read books so your child can become familiar with the story, making it easier to retell the story.
- ✦ Have your child retell the story.
- ✦ Encourage your child to tell you something from her own experience related to what happened in the book.
- ✦ Use puppets or props to tell the story to help your child remember it; have your child use props to help retell the story.
- ✦ Encourage your child to talk about the pictures in the book, even if what she says is not in the story. Ask open-ended questions (ones that cannot be answered with yes or no).
- ✦ Ask your child to tell you about the pictures they draw.
- ✦ Stop before turning the page and ask your child what they think will happen next.
- ✦ Read “wordless” books (see “Talk” page 2).
- ✦ Instead of asking your child how school was (Typical answer: “Good”), ask specific questions that require a more detailed answer. What was the best thing that happened today? What stories did the teacher share? What happened at recess?

Read



Chalk, by Bill Thomson



A rainy day. Three kids in a park. A dinosaur spring rider.

A bag of chalk. The kids begin to draw, and then ... Magic! The pictures the children draw come to life—the sun, rain, butterflies. But then they draw a T-Rex ... Uh-oh!

More wordless books from Bill Thomson:



More Wordless/Mostly Wordless Books:

Another, by Christian Robinson

The Lion and the Mouse, by Jerry Pinkney

The Farmer and the Clown, by Marla Frazee

Flotsam, by David Wiesner (Caldecott Award)

Choose Books



Award-Winning Books

Though many picture books are considered high-quality for children, selecting award-winning books, such as those chosen by the American Library Association, cultural groups, well-known publishers, and educational institutions, is a good way to begin sharing the best children's books with your child.

Look for award medals, such as these, on book jackets at your local library.



Talk



How do you “read” a wordless book with your child? Wordless books give children the chance to make up their own story as they look at the pictures. It also gives your child an opportunity to tell the story in their own words. On each page, give your child a few moments to look at the illustrations. Then ask, “What’s happening here?” “What do you see?” “What is the story here?” “What do you notice?” Give your child time to put words and thoughts together and expand on their descriptions.

Write



Use sidewalk chalk to draw a squiggly line or the beginning of a shape. Ask your child to use his imagination to finish the drawing. You can play, too!



Sing



If You’re a Hungry Dinosaur

(Tune: If You’re Happy and You Know It)
(Match actions to words)

If you’re a hungry dinosaur, show your teeth,

If you’re a hungry dinosaur, show your teeth.

If you’re a hungry dinosaur,

then give a great big roar (*ROAR!*)

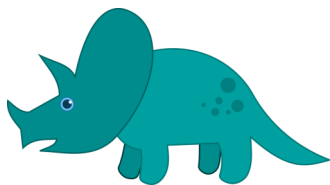
If you’re a hungry dinosaur, show your teeth.

Additional verses:

... show your claws

... wiggle your tail

... munch a tree



Hear tune at [www.thelearninggroove.com/
if-youre-happy-and-you-know-it](http://www.thelearninggroove.com/if-youre-happy-and-you-know-it)

Recognizing Reading Problems



Learning to read is a challenge for many kids, but most can become good readers if they get the right help. Parents have an important job in recognizing when a child is struggling and knowing how to find help.

What to look for:

- Difficulty rhyming
- Difficulty hearing individual sounds
- Difficulty following directions
- Difficulty re-telling a story
- Struggles to sound out most words
- Avoids reading aloud

If you think your kindergartener is struggling with learning to read, talk to her teacher sooner rather than later. The school can provide free support if needed!

From [www.readingrockets.org/article/
recognizing-reading-problems](http://www.readingrockets.org/article/recognizing-reading-problems) (2018)

At your library ...



In addition to books, many libraries offer equipment, supplies, tools, and instruments to support hobbies and crafts, sports and recreation, art and music, baking and gardening, and home repair and maintenance. Visit your library to see what is available in your area!