

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...

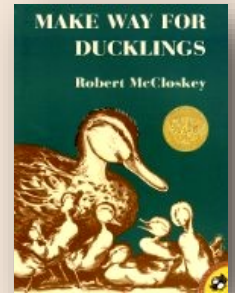


- ✦ Read books that have words or phrases that repeat. Encourage your child to say the repeated phrase with you each time.
- ✦ Re-read books so your child can become familiar with the story, making it easier to retell the story.
- ✦ Have your child retell the story.
- ✦ Encourage your child to tell you 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).
- ✦ Have your child draw pictures and ask her to tell you about them.
- ✦ 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 was something nice that you did for someone?

Read



“Make Way for Ducklings” by Robert McCloskey



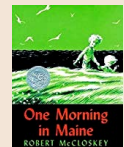
For more than fifty years, children have been entertained by this warm and wonderful story of the Mallard family's search for the perfect home. The award-winning illustrations help pre-readers enjoy the book with a grown up or on their own.

Other books by Robert McCloskey to enjoy:

“Time of Wonder” (Caldecott Award)

“Blueberries for Sal” (Caldecott Honor)

“One Morning in Maine” (Caldecott Honor)



And many more!

Choose Books



Books that help build narrative skills:

- Books with a repeated phrase
- Books that repeat part of the story
- Books that tell a tale that builds on itself
- Books where the events happen in an order
- Books with detailed illustrations
- Wordless picture books

Recognizing Reading Problems



From: Reading Rockets

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!

Write



Help your child make a list of questions she has about ducks (or other animals of interest). Visit your local library to check out books from the children's section, and look for answers to the questions. Here are a few questions to get you started: How many days does it take for a duck egg to hatch? How many eggs does a female duck usually lay?

Play



What are some other rhyming names for the baby ducks (or other names)? You may need to choose the first name and ask your child to find others that rhyme (Mike, Ike, Pike or Finn, Winn, Chinn). This is a great game to play in the car or during "waiting" times!



Sing



Six Little Ducks

Six little ducks that I once knew,
Short ones, skinny ones, fair ones, too.
But the one little duck
with the feather on his back,
He led the others with his quack, quack, quack!
Quack, quack quack! Quack, quack quack!
He led the others with his quack, quack, quack!

Down to the river they would go,
Wibble wobble, wibble wobble, to and fro.
But the one little duck
with the feather on his back,
He led the others with his quack, quack, quack!
Quack, quack quack! Quack, quack quack!
He led the others with his quack, quack, quack!

To hear the tune, go to
www.kiddiddles.com



At your library...



Every April there is a celebration of children and reading, El día de los niños/El día de los libros. It is a day "for remembering the power of words and books in the lives of our young people and for honoring all the languages spoken in the homes of this country," says Pat Mora, children's author.

Check with your library for any special Día events and books in other languages.