

Did you know ...



Children with print awareness understand that print has different functions; for example, menus list food choices, a book tells a story, a sign can point to a favorite restaurant or warn of danger. Show children that print is all around them. Point it out when you are out in the community or around the house.

It takes time and practice for children to understand that letters are symbols that create words and that words represent things. Model for your child how to hold a book and that you read a sentence from left to right. Running your finger under the words as you read shows them to read from the top to the bottom of the page. Make a game of these skills to keep it fun!

Here's how ...

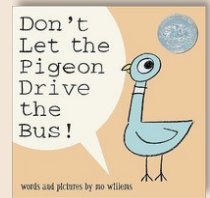


- ✦ Have a special box or drawer with materials that your child can use for writing and drawing.
- ✦ Create writing kits filled with different types of paper, envelopes, labels and stickers, greeting cards, note pads, and a variety of writing tools.
- ✦ Junk mail can be a treasure trove for your child. Save envelopes, labels, stickers, or small writing pads you receive to put in your child's writing kit.
- ✦ Provide lots of experiences for writing practice—let your child write with their finger in pudding or shaving cream on a flat surface, draw in sand or dry Jell-O in a flat box or pan, write letters with paint and a paint brush, and/or use sidewalk chalk.

Read

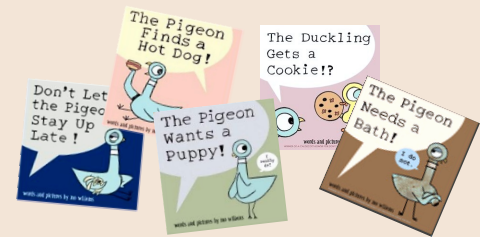


Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! by Mo Willems



Though the bus driver has warned us, “Don’t let the pigeon drive the bus!” the determined blue pigeon uses every trick in the book from whining to temper tantrums, to convince us, the readers, to let him do just that. Will your child let Pigeon drive the bus?

More Pigeon books:



If your child likes Pigeon, meet more lovable characters from award-winning author/illustrator Mo Willems at your library.

And find books, play games, and laugh out loud at www.pigeonpresents.com.

Choosing Books



Books that develop awareness of print:

- Books with lots of punctuation marks
- Books with signs, lists, labels, menus, charts, instructions, etc., as part of the illustrations
- Books in which characters are using print in different ways, such as writing a letter, or making a checklist
- Books with speech or thought bubbles
- Recipe books

Talk



When reading books with speech or thought bubbles, explain to your child that these bubbles are used to show what the character is saying or thinking. Also point out the different types of punctuation marks, and show how these clues tell us how to read the words with emotion.



Write



Fingerplays help strengthen the little muscles in your child's fingers that will hold a pencil. Try this one:

(Put five fingers up, bend down a finger for each pigeon that flies away)

Five little pigeons, flying around our door,
The **blue** one flew away,
and then there were four.

Four little pigeons sitting in a tree,
The **yellow** one flew away,
and then there were three.

The other little pigeons didn't know what to do,
So the **red** one flew away,
and then there were two.

Two little pigeons sitting in the sun,
The **brown** one flew away, and there was one.

The little **green** pigeon felt so all alone,
He/she flew away,
and then there were none.

Later on that very day,
all five little pigeons came back to play!

Play



Pigeon is very dramatic, and Pigeon stories are perfect to act out! Let your child or a favorite stuffed animal play the part of Pigeon. Laugh it up!

Sing



The Wheels on the Bus

(Match actions to words)

The wheels on the bus go 'round and 'round,
'Round and 'round, 'round and 'round.
The wheels on the bus go 'round and 'round,
All around the town.

More verses:

The wipers on the bus go swish, swish, swish...
The people on the bus go up and down...
The horn on the bus goes beep, beep, beep...
The babies on the bus go, "wah, wah, wah."
The mommies on the bus go, "shh, shh, shh."

Hear song at www.thelearninggroove.com/wheels-on-the-bus

At your library ...



Your family is welcome in the library, and your librarians care very much about you and your children. They are here to help every child get a great start, succeed in school, and find joy in reading!

Take Your Child to the Library Day
February 7, 2025

<https://takeyourchildtothelibrary.org/>