

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...

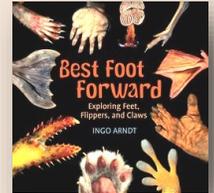


- ✦ Make time for your child to be out in the natural world. Take walks through the woods, splash in a creek, go to a park. Children this age love to explore, so get outside and enjoy some time in nature.
- ✦ Go to your local library and check out books about the things your child is interested in. Whether 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



Best Foot Forward: Exploring Feet, Flippers and Claws, by Ingo Arndt



This nonfiction book has photos of all kinds of animal feet. Each page shows a close-up of a foot, and asks the question, "Whose foot is this?" Different categories of feet are described:

- Feet that Walk
- Feet that Climb
- Feet that Swim
- Feet that Dig
- Feet that Jump
- Extraordinary Feet

The colorful photos and simple text are helpful in explaining how feet help animals survive.

Choosing Books



More nonfiction books to look for at your local library:

Bloom, Bloom, by April Pulley Sayre

Terrific Tongues, by Maria Gianferrari

How Big Is an Elephant? by Rossana Bossù

Who Has These Feet? By Laura Hulbert

Eat Like a Bear, by April Pulley Sayre

Trees, by Verlie Hutchens

Hey, Water! by Antoinette Portis



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.

Write and Talk



Provide your child with things she can use to explore and describe objects around the house, then draw and write about them. Example: use a magnifying glass to study coins, beans, leaves, etc. Help your child find words to describe how those things look close up. Then help her draw them in a journal or notebook. Or use binoculars to study a bird from far away.

Sing



I'm a Little Raccoon

(to the tune of I'm a Little Teapot)

I'm a little raccoon, prowling around,
I hunt for food without a sound.
A mask on my face and a bushy tail,
Let's see if you can spot my trail!

From DLTk Kids: www.dltk-kids.com/animals/songs/raccoonsong.htm



Play



Go on a scavenger hunt around your neighborhood. Can you find the following?

- ◆ A sign left by an animal, such as a chewed leaf or animal track
- ◆ An animal that is eating
- ◆ A creature that is furry
- ◆ A creature with feathers
- ◆ An animal that is quiet
- ◆ An animal that is loud



Website:

Mother Natured is a website with lots of ideas for children to interact with nature. This link will take you to several activities using animal tracks.

<http://mothernatured.com/2012/02/13/footprint-fun-in-five-ways/>

At your library...



Electronic books and audio books: 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 audio books develops important early literacy skills. Ask your library about e-books and audio books available for checkout.