

Did you know ...



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

Here's how ...

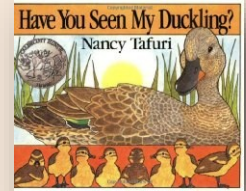


- ✦ Read books that have words or phrases that repeat. Encourage your child to say the repeated phrase with you each time.
- ✦ Re-read books so your child can become familiar with the story, making it easier to retell the story.
- ✦ Have your child retell the story.
- ✦ Encourage your child to tell you something from their own experience related to what happened in the book.
- ✦ Use puppets or props to tell the story to help your child remember it.
- ✦ Encourage your child to talk about the pictures in the book, even if what they say 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 you turn the page and ask your child what they think will happen next.
- ✦ Read “wordless” books (see “Talk” page 2).
- ✦ Expand on your child’s descriptions. You: *What have you got there?* Child: *A ball.* You: *Oh, it’s a big, red, bouncy ball! What game shall we play with it?*

Read



***Have You Seen My Duckling?* by Nancy Tafuri**



A duckling is missing! Or is he? This mostly wordless book takes your child on an adventure as they try to find the missing duckling on each page.

This book won a Caldecott Honor award for its artwork (see *Choosing Books* below).

More Wordless/Mostly Wordless Books:

A Ball for Daisy, by Chris Raschka

Good Dog, Carl, by Alexandra Day

Goodnight, Gorilla, by Peggy Rathmann

Pip and Pup, by Eugene Yelchin

Red Sled, by Lita Judge

Wave, by Suzy Lee

Choosing 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



Help your child make a simple wordless book. Fold two sheets of paper in half and staple them to make a short book. Ask your child to think of a fun day they had. What happened first? What happened next? How did the day end? Help them draw three to four pictures, one on each half page. Give the book a title, and let your child write their name as the author and illustrator.

Play



Five Little Ducks (Counting Rhyme)

Five little ducks went out one day,
Over the hills and far away.
Mama Duck said, “Quack, quack, quack, quack.”
But only four little ducks came waddling back.

Repeat with four, three, two, one, none.

A lonely Mama Duck went out one day,
Over the hills and far away.
Mama Duck said, “Quack, quack, quack, quack.”
And five little ducks came waddling back!



Sing



Six Little Ducks

Six little ducks that I once knew,
Fat 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!

See a video from the Washington County Cooperative
Library System at <http://tinyurl.com/6littleducks>

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!