

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

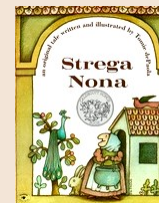


Pancakes for Breakfast by Tomie dePaola



Pancakes are a favorite breakfast food for many children. This wordless book takes children through the routine of making pancakes and solving problems that arise. Reading books without words gives you and your child the opportunity to create a new story every time you read the book together.

Tomie dePaola is the author and illustrator of *Strega Nona* and other classic stories such as:



The Art Lesson

The Cloud Book

The Popcorn Book

And many more!

Choosing Books



More Wordless/Mostly Wordless Books:

A Ball for Daisy by Chris Raschka

Ball by Mary Sullivan

Deep in the Forest by Brinton Turkle

Frog, Where Are You? by Mercer Mayer

Flashlight by Lizi Boyd

Goodnight, Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann

Have You Seen My Duckling?
by Nancy Tafuri

Mr. Wuffles! by David Wiesner

Wave by Suzy Lee

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 what they say.

Write



Help your child make a menu for the week of foods they would like to eat or that you have planned. They can write it by copying the words you write or invent their own spelling. They can add a drawing next to the food items if they wish. Making lists is a fun way to practice writing.

Sing



The Muffin Man

Oh, do you know the muffin man,
The muffin man, the muffin man,
Oh, do you know the muffin man,
That lives on Drury Lane?
Oh, yes, I know the muffin man,
The muffin man, the muffin man,
Oh, yes, I know the muffin man,
That lives on Drury Lane.

For fun, change “muffin” to “pancake” and use your own street name.

Hear this song at:

<http://bussongs.com/songs/the-muffin-man>



Play



Make pancakes with your child, either from a mix, from the book, *Pancakes for Breakfast* (if you have a copy), or by using the recipe below. Let your child help you measure and mix the ingredients.

1½ cups all-purpose flour
3½ teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon white sugar
1¼ cups milk
1 egg
3 tablespoons butter, melted

1. In a large bowl, mix together the flour, baking powder, salt, and sugar. Carefully pour in the milk, egg, and melted butter; mix until smooth.
2. Heat a lightly oiled frying pan over medium high heat. Pour the batter into the pan, using about ¼ cup for each pancake. Brown on both sides and serve hot with butter and syrup.



At your library ...



In addition to books, many libraries offer toys, 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!