



## Let's Take a Book Picture Walk

A picture walk helps develop your children's language and pre-reading skills.

Talk about the pictures keeping in mind what is needed to understand the story when it is read.

- Have a conversation with your child around a book before you read it.
- A picture walk is not reading the book. It's talking about the pictures—getting to know the book together.
- Works best with books that have a predictable sequence or story.
- Speak in the language that is most comfortable for YOU!

### What to do:

- Look at the cover.
- Point to and say name of author and title.
- Looking at the cover, ask your child what he thinks the book will be about.
- Without reading the words in the book, encourage your child to turn the pages one at a time.
- Point to a picture and ask, what questions
  - What do you see on this page?
  - What is happening?
  - What is this picture telling you?
  - What do you think will happen?
- When you talk about the pictures
  - Take turns talking
  - Introduce new words; explain what they mean
  - Add a bit more information to what the child says
  - Rephrase what your child says adding more words or ideas
  - Help your child make connections to past experiences and future events.Examples:
  - When did you . . . ?
  - How did you feel when. . . ?
  - How would you feel if . . . ?
- Guide your child so he will understand the story
  - What words might he need to know?
  - What does he need to know to understand the story?



## Let's Share a Book Together

Read the words in the book with your child while also talking about the pictures.

- Encourage your child to turn the pages.
- Focus on the text
  - Point to words in repeated phrases
  - What does the font or layout of the text tell you?
  - What letters do you notice?
- Have your child tell a story from the pictures.
- Look at the pictures on one page. What do they make you and your child think about? Talk about them together.
- Read the story straight through to get the flow of the story. There may be short interactions with your child.
- Have your child join in with a repeated word or phrase.
- When reading books with repeated phrases or actions, or rhyming books, stop before the end of a line and let your child finish it.
- Ask questions to involve your child—"What do you think is happening here?"
- Ask open-ended questions: "What would you do if that happened to you? How would you feel? Why do you think happened?"
- Talk about or explain words your child does not know.
- Give your child time to ask questions or make comments.
- After reading the book, talk about what your child said during the picture walk. Did the story end the way your child thought it would or did your child have another idea?
- After reading the book, talk about what happened first, in the middle, last.
- Ask questions that prompt your child to reflect on the story. Examples:
  - How would you have solved this problem?
  - Now that you know what happened, why do you think the character acted that way?
  - How was the story different from what you thought would happen?





## Having a Conversation About the Pictures in a Book Dialogic Reading

- Use conversations around the pictures in books to develop children's vocabulary and comprehension.
- Follow the child's lead.
- Start using with children who can respond with a short phrase.
- Use books with pictures that are clear, that the child can understand, and that there is something happening in the pictures to talk about.

### Part 1: Tips to Build Vocabulary

- Ask "what" questions: What's this?
- Leave some time for your child to think and answer—five seconds or more if needed.
- Repeat what your child says: "Yes, that's right, a cow."
- Help your child as needed.
- Give answer and child repeats. "This is a calf."
- Add a little bit more information.
- "A calf is a baby cow. It's brown with white spots."
- Praise and encourage your child.
- Follow your child's interests.

### Part 2: Tips to Build Sentence Skills

- Ask "open-ended" questions, questions that cannot be answered with just yes or no:
  - Tell me what you see on this page.
  - What do you think is going on here?
- Follow answers with another question:
  - What else do you see?
  - I wonder how . . .
  - How do you think that happened?
  - What do you think?
- Expand what your child says:
  - Add some information
  - Add a new word or two
- Relate something in the picture to your child's experience:
  - When have you . . . ?
  - Remember when . . . ? Tell me about it.
  - When have you felt that way?
- Help your child repeat your longer phrases.

## Sharing Books with Young Children



**The way you talk with your children as you read books together makes a difference in their being ready to learn to read.**

Children often like to hear the same book over and over again. There are many ways to read books with your children. You can share the same book in different ways each time you read it.

**Here are some ways you and your child can share books together.**