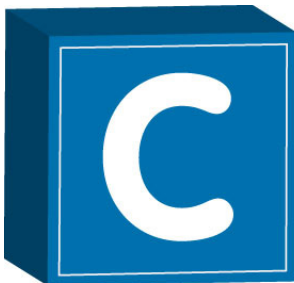


Reading with CARE with *Preschoolers*



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Building Blocks for Reading with CARE with PRESCHOOLERS



Comment and describe objects, colors, numbers, sizes, letters, emotions, and actions of pictures in books. Talk about the pictures while you point to them, or run your finger under the lines of the words as you read them. Take turns interacting and let the child turn the pages and be the story teller by encouraging and listening to him/her talk about the pictures or retell memorized stories.





Ask open-ended questions and explore book together. Ask questions that show you are interested in the child's thoughts and ideas. E.g. "What do you think will happen next?" "What's interesting about this page?" Avoid asking too many questions or the child will think you are testing him/her. To keep a balance you can intersperse open-ended questions with descriptive comments. E.g. "I see a red car and one, two, three, four trees. Oh, there's a little mouse. What do you see?" When you do ask questions, don't "test" the child about facts (e.g., "what color is this?" "what shape is this?"). Questions with right or wrong answers put the child on the spot and may cause anxiety or resistance.

Examples of open ended questions:

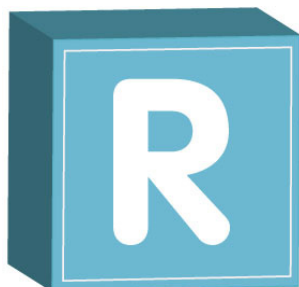
*"What do you see on this page?"
(observing and reporting)*

"What's happening here?" (story telling)

*"What is that a picture of?"
(promoting academic skills)*

*"I wonder how she is feeling now?"
(exploring feelings)*

"What is going to happen next?" (predicting)

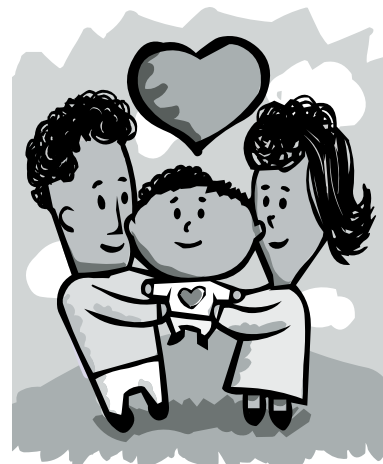


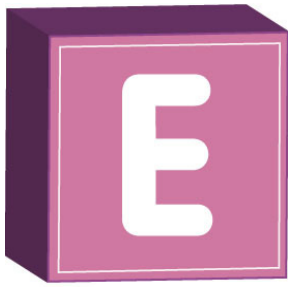
Respond and listen attentively with smiles, encouragement, praise and delight to the child's thinking and responses. Follow the child's lead and empower his or her confidence.

"Good thinking, that is a tall giraffe."

"You really thinking hard about that."

"Wow, you know a lot about trains."





Expand on what the child says. You can expand by adding a new word or similar word to what the child says or by reminding him/her of a personal experience or event in his/her life that is similar to the story in the book.

"Yes, I agree he is feeling excited, and he might be a little scared as well."

"Yes, it is horse; it's also called a mare because it's female."

"Yes, that boy is going to the park. Do you remember going to the park with grandma?"



You can also expand by encouraging the child to write his own stories, or dictate them to you and write them down.

"That's awesome. You are learning your letters and are learning to read and are going to be ready for school."

You can expand by encouraging the child to problem solve solutions to the story plot and act out their ideas with puppets.

Remember:

- Read in a quiet place, turn off any competing noises such as TV, stereo, radio or computer. Even the phone should be turned off during this time.
- Avoid commands and criticisms when children are reading.
- Allow children to reread stories as often as they wish. This is a pre-reading skill and leads to mastery and confidence.
- Read to children every day and allow them to see you reading.
- Offer a variety of books such as folk tales, poems, informational books, fantasy, fables and adventure stories.

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