

Parent Pages

Preschoolers Are Developing Into Readers

Preschoolers are almost ready to read. You can further develop your preschooler pre-reading skills by continuing to read in order to develop vocabulary, print awareness, narrative skills, letter knowledge, interest in reading and the understanding that words are made up of a number of sounds. Use the following activities to enhance your shared reading time and broaden your preschooler's early literacy skills.

Encourage your preschooler to “read” aloud. Have your preschooler practice “reading” aloud from a simple book – *Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See?* is a perfect choice. Once your child is comfortable reading the book, have him read aloud the book to a younger sibling, the dog, or a neighborhood child.

Make up your own stories. Share stories with your child from when you were a child, make up stories featuring your own child as the main character, or tweak a favorite story that you read aloud together. Preschoolers love to engage with their favorite grownup; use your time together to talk.

Read more than just books! Read magazines and newspapers; read aloud to your child from cereal boxes and packaging. Show your preschooler that print is all around them and that this print is meaningful. Check out books on tape and CD and follow along with the story using picture books.

Make your own books. Create your own books by having your child dictate and illustrate a story. Copy to words from a favorite books onto blank paper and have your child illustrate the book with a different ending.

Choose books that relate to your child's interests. Is your child fascinated with dinosaurs? Does your child love babies? Check out books that relate to your child's interests when visiting the library. Keep a sheet of paper on the refrigerator and write down topics your child is interested in throughout the week. Was your child particularly enthralled when digging in the dirt outside? Has your child talked all week about the fire engine that passed your house? Write these down and take the sheet to the library during your weekly visits; have the librarian help you find books on these topics.

Introduce informational books to your preschooler. Demonstrate how you can use books to find the answer to questions by searching for information on interesting subjects. *The Magic School Bus* is a great informational series with a storybook feel.

Act out your child's favorite stories. Use the plots from your child's favorite stories as the basis for pretend play. Act out the stories as they are found in the book or change the ending. Use puppets, dolls, or stuffed animals to act out your favorite stories. Encourage your child to act out their own play for your family to watch.

Books for Four and Five Year Olds

1. *When Sophie Gets Angry* by Molly Bang
2. *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs* by Judi Barrett
3. *Madeline* by Ludwig Bemelmans
4. *Tell Me Again About the Night I Was Born* by Jamie Lee Curtis
5. *The Accidental Zucchini* by Max Grover
6. *Chester's Way* by Kevin Henkes
7. *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes
8. *Wolf's Chicken Stew* by Keiko Kasza
9. *I'm Still Here in the Bathtub* by Alan Katz
10. *Whistle for Willie* by Ezra Jack Keats
11. *Anansi and the Talking Melon* by Eric Kimmel
12. *Edwin the Emu* by Sheena Knowles
13. *Edwina the Emu* by Sheena Knowles
14. *Tacky the Penguin* by Helen Lester
15. *Frog and Toad are Friends* by Arnold Lobel
16. *Mouse Tales* by Arnold Lobel
17. *Froggy Gets Dressed* by Johnathon London
18. *George and Martha* by James Marshall
19. *Blueberries for Sal* by Robert McCloskey
20. *Little Bear* by Else Holmelund Minarik
21. *Tikki Tikki Tembo* by Arlene Mosel
22. *The Paper Bag Princess* by Robert Munsch
23. *The Paperboy* by Dav Pilkey

24. *The Day the Babies Crawled Away*

by Peggy Rathmann

25. *Caps for Sale* by Esphyr

Slobodkina

26. *Wild About Books* by Judy Sierra

27. *Baa-Choo* by Sarah Weeks

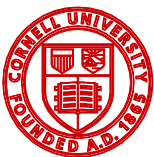
28. *Tuesday* by David Weisner

29. *The Little Old Lady Who Wasn't*

Afraid of Anything by Linda

Williams

30. *Harry the Dirty Dog* by Gene Zion



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Prepared by Wendy Wilcox, Extension Support Specialist at Cornell University. Visit the Parenting in Context website at <https://www.human.cornell.edu/engagement/parenting-project>

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