



It is important to read stories with your child before starting school – birth is not too soon. Storytelling helps your child develop speaking and listening skills. Stories are also a good way to learn new things about the world.





There are many fun ways you can use storybooks with your preschooler. Here are a few suggestions:


 Start with a book you think your child will like.


Good books talk about things that are interesting and familiar to your child. Pick a book with bright colored and interesting pictures and a story that has a beginning, middle and end.

 If a story is too hard or too long for your child, don't read all of the words in the book. Use the pictures to make up your own story.


 Read the same story many times. Your child learns best when he hears a story over and over again. Your child will love to tell a story by heart!

 Your child does not have to know how to "read" a story. By listening to you read a story many times and by looking at the pictures, your child will "read" the book in his own words.


 Look for books that have lots of repetition, rhyme and verse. These books are easier for your child to remember.

 Relate the story to your child's interests and experiences. Relating the story to what your child already knows will help him to understand new ideas in the story.


Example: *"Does our dog look like that?"*

 Ask questions that encourage your child to think about things that are happening in the story.


Examples: *"How do you think he got up there?" "Why did the girl run away?"*

 Ask questions that encourage your child to think about what will happen next in the story.

Example: *"What will happen after she runs away?"*

 When your child learns the order of a story (that is, what happened first, next and so on), he learns to put his own thoughts and ideas in order when talking to people.

Examples: *"Billy went to the garage to get his bike. When he wheeled it outside, he saw that it had a flat tire. Then he went to tell his mom. His mom came to the garage and fixed the tire."*

 Have fun! Your child will learn that reading is both fun and a chance to learn something new. Make reading a habit.

Did you know...

The public library has a variety of books for preschoolers. In Edmonton, library membership is free for children under 18 years of age.

For more information, contact your community speech-language pathologist.