

Finding and Sharing Great Kids' Books

Favorite stories get shared many times over. Here's some advice about how to find a good children's book and what to do once you're reading together with your child.

What to look for:

- Look for award-winning books. Each year the American Library Association selects children's books for the Caldecott Medal for illustrations and the Newbery Medal for writing.
- Check the book review section of newspapers and magazines for recommended new children's books.
- Check the Books and Authors section of www.ReadingRockets.org for recommendations and reviews.

Remember: Borrowing books from your local public library and swapping favorites with neighbors are two good ways to learn about new books.

What to do:

- Listen carefully as your child reads.
- Take turns. Read a paragraph (or page) and have your child read the next one.
- If your child has trouble reading a word, you can help in several ways:
 - Guide your child to use what he or she knows about letters and sounds to sound out the word.
 - Ask your child to skip over the word, read the rest of the sentence, and then say a word that would make sense in the story.
 - Supply the correct word.
- Tell your child how proud you are of his or her efforts and skills.

Remember: Your child may be focusing more on how to read each word than on what the story means, so your reading helps to keep the story alive.

Adapted from Kame'enui, E. J., & Simmons, D. C. *Read*Write*Now! Activities for Reading and Writing Fun.*

**Check out Reading Rockets' "Books and Authors" section for great read-aloud books:
www.ReadingRockets.org/books**

Visit our sister sites, ColorinColorado.org and LDOnLine.org, for more information about learning.

