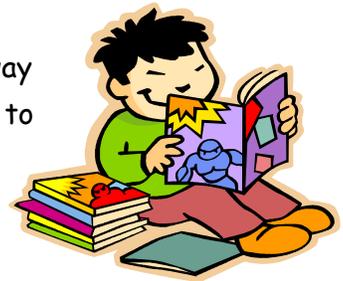


Books, books, books!



Introducing kids to books at a young age is a great way to get them interested in reading and to expose them to literacy-rich environments. Here are some things to keep in mind when choosing books for toddlers and other little ones:



- **Rhythm and rhyme** - These are both important foundations for pre-literacy skills and for speech development. Books with repetitive, predictable sentences are fun because kids can quickly learn the script and help say the words. Even little guys who aren't talking yet will enjoy the intonation patterns and may even vocalize along with the rhythm of the story.
- **Basic content** - Instead of a long story with a lot of complex sentences, find books that target basic concepts using basic language structures. Your child will be much more interested in a book that they can follow along with.
- **Interactive books** - Flaps, pull tabs, and textures are all ways to keep kids interested in books - especially those who might not be as inclined to participate in story time. These books often have the added bonus of teaching basic concepts in a hands-on way, such moving a tab while listening about up and down, or touching different textures while hearing new adjectives.

Here are some favourites for toddler-friendly books:

- **Sandra Boynton books (e.g. Pyjama Time, Moo-Baa-La)** - These are a CDC favourite! They incorporate plenty of repetition, rhythm, and rhyme, along with basic concepts and simple illustrations.
- **Usbourne Touchy-Feely books (e.g. That's Not My Dragon, That's Not My Snowman)** - These textured books use lots of descriptive language within the same sentence format. Remember, when it comes to books, repetition is your friend!
- **Spot the Dog books (by Eric Hill)** - These lift-the-flap books are a great way to help your child get involved during story time. They can also help promote turn-taking if you are reading with more than one child as children can take turns opening the flaps.
- **Eric Carle books (e.g. Brown Bear Brown Bear, Polar Bear Polar Bear)** - These books contain bright, simple illustrations that are appealing without being too busy or distracting and the simple rhyme and predictable flow of the books makes it easy for kids to join in and anticipate what's coming next.