

Choosing Books

When you're flipping through the books in a library or on a bookshelf, searching for a good book to read to the kids, what are you looking for? That depends on the age of the children you're reading to. And with older children, it also depends on their interests. Here's what you're skimming to find:

| Age | Type of Book | Examples |
|--|---|---|
| <i>Babies</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bright colours, simple shapes • one or two pictures per page • wordless books • songs and rhymes • cloth, plastic or board • touchable (fuzzy, soft, rough) | <p><i>Hand, Hand, Fingers, Thumb</i> by Al Perkins</p> <p><i>Pat the Bunny</i> by Dorothy Kunhardt</p> |
| <i>Toddlers (1 to 2 years)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • real photographs • song books • interactive books • simple concepts-colour, shape, opposites • pop up and flap books • very short stories • predictable books | <p><i>Where's Spot</i> by Eric Hill</p> <p><i>The Very Hungry Caterpillar</i> by Eric Carle</p> |
| <i>Pre-schoolers (3 to 5 years)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more detailed pictures • longer stories • predictable books • nursery rhymes, fairy tales • interactive books • stories about real people, places, things • books about emotions, life skills | <p><i>That's Good! That's Bad!</i> by Margery Cuyler</p> <p><i>The Little Red Hen</i> by William Stobbs</p> |
| <i>Beginning Readers (six to eight)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • short chapter books • large print, lots of pictures • stories for the imagination • non-fiction about topics like animals and things in the community | <p><i>Where the Wild Things Are</i> by Maurice Sendak</p> <p><i>Amelia Bedelia</i> by Peggy Parish</p> |
| <i>Older Children (seven and up)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • longer chapter books, fewer pictures • interesting characters • complicated plots • non-fiction about topics of special interest to the child (sports, music, horses, travel) | <p><i>Charlotte's Web</i> by E.B. White</p> <p><i>Babe</i> by Dick King-Smith</p> |