

"I'm not a teacher, what can I do?"

- ★ You **are** your child's first and most important teacher.
- ★ You know your child best. You know when your child is in a mood for learning and what he or she enjoys.
- ★ Your child loves doing things with you, like reading, singing, playing and rhyming together.
- ★ Have fun with stories, songs and rhymes in the language you feel most comfortable using.
- ★ Chat with library staff about your child's interests to get help choosing books he or she will love.
- ★ Come to free library programs to meet other families and enjoy early literacy activities together.



Every Child Ready to Read® is a project of the Association for Library Service to Children and the Public Library Association, divisions of the American Library Association.

You can help your child get ready to read before starting school

These five activities are easy to do with children of all ages. It's never too early or too late to start. Try them at home, in the car, or anywhere you and your child spend time together.

1. Talking

Talking with your child is a great way to develop language and other early literacy skills. Conversations help children express thoughts, learn what words mean, and gain new information about the world.

2. Singing

Singing helps children hear the different sounds that make up words. This is an important pre-reading skill. Songs also introduce new words and ideas.

3. Reading

Reading books together is the single best way to help your child develop skills for reading. Reading together and talking about what you read will teach new words, help develop a love of books, and motivate your child to want to learn to read.

4. Writing

Reading and writing go together. Writing activities help children learn letter names and sound out new words. Writing also helps children understand that written words represent ideas, places, and events.

5. Playing

Children learn how to express themselves, the meaning of words, and other early literacy skills by playing. Play requires a little space, simple props, and some imagination and encouragement. You don't need special toys or expensive electronics.

Getting Ready for Reading



HALIFAX PUBLIC
Libraries

Every**CHILD**
Ready to**READ**
@ your library®

halifaxpubliclibraries.ca

GOOD NIGHT
GORILLA

Alligator
Pie
by
Dennis
Lee

MAMA CAT
has three kittens

THE CAT
IN
THE
HAT



100 Great Picture Books for Preschoolers

This list of recommended picture books for ages 3-5 is a great place to start when choosing books to read together. See how many you and your child can enjoy before school begins.

- Alligator Pie*, by Dennis Lee
- Anansi & the Moss-Covered Rock*, by Eric Kimmel
- Are You My Mother?*, by P.D. Eastman
- Bark, George*, by Jules Feiffer
- Bear Snores On*, by Karma Wilson
- Black? White! Day? Night! a Book of Opposites*, by Laura Vaccaro Seeger
- Blueberries for Sal*, by Robert McCloskey
- Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?*, by Bill Martin Jr.
- Bunny Cakes*, by Rosemary Wells
- Canada 123*, by Kim Bellefontaine
- Caps for Sale*, by Esphyr Slobodkina
- The Cat in the Hat*, by Dr. Seuss
- Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*, by Bill Martin Jr.
- Click, Clack, Moo: Cows that Type*, by Doreen Cronin
- Cook-a-Doodle-Do!*, by Janet Stevens & Susan Stevens Crummel
- Corduroy*, by Don Freeman
- Curious George*, by H.A. Rey
- Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*, by Mo Willems
- The Doorbell Rang*, by Pat Hutchins
- Duck on a Bike*, by David Shannon
- Each Peach Pear Plum*, by Allan Ahlberg
- Eloise*, by Kay Thompson
- Farmer Duck*, by Martin Waddell
- Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed*, by Eileen Christelow
- Fox Walked Alone*, by Barbara Reid
- Froggy Gets Dressed*, by Jonathan London
- Giraffes Can't Dance*, by Giles Andreae
- Go Away, Big Green Monster!*, by Ed Emberley

- Goldilocks & the Three Bears*, by James Marshall
- Good Night, Gorilla*, by Peggy Rathmann
- Goodnight Moon*, by Margaret Wise Brown
- The Gruffalo*, by Julia Donaldson
- Guess How Much I Love You*, by Sam McBratney
- Harold & the Purple Crayon*, by Crockett Johnson
- Harry the Dirty Dog*, by Gene Zion
- Henny Penny*, by Paul Galdone
- Houses & Homes*, by Ann Morris
- How Do Dinosaurs Say Good Night?*, by Jane Yolen
- I Am Canada*, by Heather Patterson
- I Am a Bunny*, by Ole Risom
- I Stink!*, by Kate McMullan
- If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, by Laura Numeroff
- Is Your Mama a Llama?*, by Deborah Guarino
- Jamberry*, by Bruce Degen
- Jump, Frog, Jump!*, by Robert Kalan
- Knuffle Bunny: a Cautionary Tale*, by Mo Willems
- Library Lion*, by Michelle Knudsen
- The Little Engine that Could*, by Watty Piper
- Llama Llama Red Pajama*, by Anne Dewdney
- Madeline*, by Ludwig Bemelmans
- Maisy Goes to the Library*, by Lucy Cousins
- Mama Cat Has Three Kittens*, by Denise Fleming
- Mama, Do You Love Me?*, by Barbara Josse
- The Mitten*, by Jan Brett
- Mortimer*, by Robert Munsch
- Mouse Paint*, by Ellen Stoll Walsh
- My Friend Rabbit*, by Eric Rohmann
- My Monster Mama Loves Me So*, by Laura Leuck
- The Napping House*, by Audrey & Don Wood
- No, David!*, by David Shannon
- Olivia*, by Ian Falconer
- One*, by Kathryn Otoshi
- One Duck Stuck*, by Phyllis Root
- Owen*, by Kevin Henkes
- Owl Babies*, by Martin Waddell

- Piggies*, by Audrey Wood
- Planting a Rainbow*, by Lois Ehlert
- Please, Baby, Please*, by Spike Lee & Tonya Lewis Lee
- Press Here*, by Herve Tullet
- Rattletrap Car*, by Phyllis Root
- Red-Eyed Tree Frog*, by Joy Cowley
- Red Is Best*, by Kathy Stinson
- Scaredy Squirrel*, by Melanie Watt
- Sheep in a Jeep*, by Nancy Shaw
- Sleeping Dragons All Around*, by Sheree Fitch
- The Snowy Day*, by Ezra Jack Keats
- Something from Nothing*, by Phoebe Gilman
- Stella, Queen of the Snow*, by Marie-Louise Gay
- Stellaluna*, by Janell Cannon
- Stone Soup*, by Marcia Brown
- The Story of Ferdinand*, by Munro Leaf
- Tacky the Penguin*, by Helen Lester
- Ten, Nine, Eight*, by Molly Bang
- The Terrible Horrible Smelly Pirate*, by Carrie Muller & Jacqueline Halsey
- The Three Bears*, by Byron Barton
- The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, by Paul Galdone
- The Three Pigs*, by David Wiesner
- Time for Bed*, by Mem Fox
- Up Home*, by Shauntay Grant
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, by Eric Carle
- Wait! No Paint!*, by Bruce Whatley
- We're Going on a Bear Hunt*, by Michael Rosen
- Where I Live*, by Frances Wolfe
- Where Is the Green Sheep?*, by Mem Fox
- Where's Spot?*, by Eric Hill
- Where the Wild Things Are*, by Maurice Sendak
- Whoever You Are*, by Mem Fox
- Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears*, by Verna Aardema
- Wild About Books*, by Judy Sierra
- You & Me Together: Moms, Dads, & Kids Around the World*, by Barbara Kerley

