

Session 2: Shared Storybook Reading Program

Parent Handout #1

What is dialogic reading?

- Dialogic Reading is a method of “shared reading” where children and adults have conversations about a book.
- By reading and having ongoing conversations, adults can help children connect language and the content of books to their own language and experiences.
- The ultimate goal of dialogic reading is that the child becomes the storyteller and the adult becomes the listener.
- The adult guides the reading and conversations on a favorite book by prompting the child to repeat his words and words that the adult shares.
- The technique is most effective when used with books that the adult and child have read several times together.
- The adult should expect more sharing from the child each time they engage in dialogic reading with the same book.

What are the benefits of dialogic reading?

This type of shared reading helps your child:

- Have an interest in books and motivation to listen to stories
- Learn about the rules of reading and writing-like how words (print) flow from top to bottom and left to right. This is called print awareness
- Learn to narrate a story (describe what is seen on the page)
- Increase vocabulary and recognition of words
- Have additional positive parent or adult child interactions

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Parent Handout #2

Dialogic Reading: Reading picture books with your child is a great way to teach vocabulary and help your child tell more complete descriptions about what they see. Look through a book before you read it with your child for the first time. The first time you read a book together, you should do most of the talking yourself, making sure that you point out the names of things your child may not know. The next time you read the same book, do the following for each of the pictures/objects you named when you and your child read the book the first time:

- **Ask “what” questions:** Point to the item in the book and say, “What’s this?” or “What’s this called?” Avoid questions that your child can answer with a “yes” or “no” or by pointing.
- **Follow answers with questions:** When your child names an object, ask a question about it. For example: “What color is the truck?”, “What is this part of the truck called?” “What is the dog doing?”, or “What do we use the bowl for?”
- **Repeat what your child says:** Let your child know his or her answer is correct by repeating it back: “Yes, that’s a cow.”
- **Help your child as needed:** If your child isn’t able to answer your question, give the correct answer and ask him or her to repeat what you have said.
- **Praise and encourage:** Tell your child when he or she is doing well by saying things like: “Good talking!” or “That’s right. Good job!”
- **Follow your child’s interests:** If your child shows an interest in a picture either by talking or pointing to it, follow it up immediately by asking questions to let your child talk.
- **Have fun!** Try to keep your reading times fun and like a game. One way to do this is to switch between asking questions and just plain reading. For example, you could read one page and then have your child tell you about the next page. Keep your child’s mood in mind. Keep in fun.

Source: http://www.mymcpl.org/uploaded_resources/dialogicreading.pdf

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Parent Handout #3

Dialogic Reading: Suggested Children's Books for Preschoolers

The best books for dialogic reading have the following characteristics:

- Clear pictures
- A simple story
- Not too long
- Pictures of things that are familiar to your child
- Action and detail in the pictures
- Interesting to your child

Some example of children's books:

Benny Bakes a Cake by Eve Rice

Big Red Barn by Margaret Wise Brown

***Bunny cakes** by Rosemary Wells

Chugga-Chugga Choo-Choo by Kevin Lewis

***Corduroy** by Don Freeman

Cows in the Kitchen by June Crebbin

Curious George Rides a Bike by H. A. Rey

***Good Night, Gorilla** by Peggy Rathmann

Jesse Bear books by Nancy Carlstrom

Jump, Frog, Jump by Robert Kalan

New Road! by Gail Gibbons

***Over in the meadow** illustrated by Ezra Jack Keats

***The Snowy day** by Ezra Jack Keats

The Three little pigs retold and illustrated by James Marshall

Trucks by Anne Rockwell

Wind Blew by Pat Hutchins Books by Richard Scarry

Visit your local public library. Ask library staff for more suggestions!

***Note:** Dialogic Reading Parent Guides are available at the Raising Readers in Story County website at www.raising-readers.org. Click on Shared Storybook Reading Program Materials.