

Wonder



Read


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Reading Begins at Home

It is never too soon to introduce your child to books. As parents, you are a major influence in helping your child learn to love books and to develop the habit of reading. The UES Gonda Family library staff invites you to visit the library to check out books to share with your child and to ask us how we can help you find books that both you and your child will enjoy.

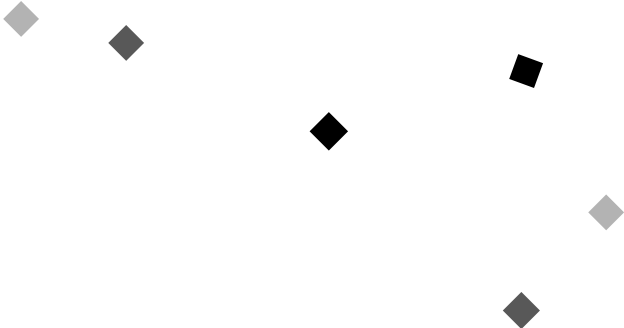
Here are some basic points to keep in mind when selecting books and sharing literature with your child.

Babies and Pre-Nursery School:

- Select books that stimulate your child's sense of sight. Books should be colorful, clear and uncluttered.
 - Young children respond to the sound of language. Look for books with rhythm, exciting sounds and repetition, such as Mother Goose.
 - Wordless picture books encourage children to participate with the parent to create their own stories.
 - Select board or cloth books which children can enjoy on their own.
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Children Ages 3 to 5:

- Keep books handy everywhere throughout the house and in the car. Include books with toys so that children are just as likely to pick up a book as they are to pick up a toy.
 - Young children enjoy hearing the same book read over and over.
 - Young children enjoy books with combinations of rhythm, repetition and familiar objects. Mother Goose and simple folk tales are ideal for this age.
 - Look for books with simple sentences, action, humor and a clear sequence of events.
 - Select books that invite children's participation in the story. Let children lift flaps, turn pages, point to pictures and repeat words or phrases.
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Children Ages 5 to 7:


- Children learn to read at different times. It is more important to enjoy reading and literature together than to teach your children to read. If children learn to love books, they will approach reading enthusiastically and naturally.
 - For early independent reading choose books with straightforward stories that use familiar words.
 - It is important to continue to read to children as they develop reading skills. A good story that has a strong storyline and character development is the best incentive for reading.
 - Encourage your children to choose non-fiction books on topics that interest them.
 - Help children develop an awareness of the following categories of books:
 - Independent Reading (Books a child reads alone)
 - Read-To-Me (Books an adult reads aloud to a child)
 - Read-With-Me (Books a child reads with adult assistance)
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Children Ages 7 to 9:

- Continue to read aloud to your children even when they have learned to read on their own.
- Longer stories, divided into chapters with few illustrations, foster longer attention spans.
- Talk with your children about what they are reading: characters, interesting words, “juicy” parts of the story.
- Help your children select books that are “just right reads” for them.

Children Ages 9 to 12:

- Once children are reading with confidence, build on their interests while encouraging them to explore new subjects and genres.
 - Continue to read to your children since they enjoy the challenge of books that are beyond their reading level.
 - Continue to talk to your children about the books they read and when appropriate share with them interesting things you have read.
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Some Book Selection Resources

There are a variety of helpful resources—people, books and websites—to help parents find good books for their children. Seek advice from experts in the children’s literature field. The UES librarians and the children’s librarians in your local public library see children daily and learn which books children enjoy. We will provide reading lists, personal recommendations, professional magazines, reviews and bibliographies of children’s books. Bookstores that specialize in children’s books are another invaluable source for advice and information.

The following sources of information about children, reading and books are available at the UES Gonda Family Library:


Bibliographies:

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Choosing Books for Children by Betsy Hearne with Deborah Stevenson. University of Illinois Press, 1999.


Great Books About Things Kids Love: More Than 175 Recommended Books for Children 3 to 14 by Kathleen Odean. Ballantine Books, 2001.

New York Time Parent’s Guide to the Best Books for Children by Eden Ross Lipson. Three Rivers Press, 2000.



Raising Lifelong Learners: a Parent’s Guide by Lucy Calkins. Addison-Wesley, 1997.





The Read-Aloud Handbook by Jim Trelease. Penguin, 1995.

Read to Me: Raising Kids Who Love to Read by Bernice E. Cullinan. Scholastic, 2000.

Websites for Parents:

**American Library Association/Born to Read—
How to Raise a Reader**

http://www.ala.org/alsc/raise_a_reader.html

Astor Center/The Whys and Hows of Reading Aloud

<http://www.bnkst.edu/americanreads/read.html>

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**The Librarian's Guide to Cyberspace for
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<http://www.ala.org/parentspage/greatsites/guide.html>

**PBS Kids/Between the Lions: Get Wild About
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<http://pbskids.org/lions/parents.html>

Read California

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**U.S. Department of Education/Helping Your Child
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- * Burningham, John. **Mr. Gumpy's Outing**. Holt, 1971.
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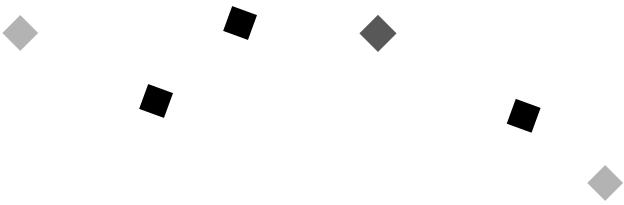
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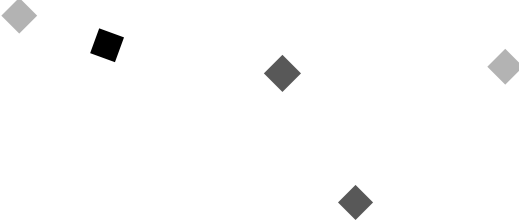
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