



Let's Have a Conversation About the Pictures in a Book Dialogic Reading

Part 1: Tips to Build Vocabulary

- Ask “what” questions: What’s this?
- Leave some time for your child to think and answer—five seconds or more if needed.
- Repeat what your child says: “Yes, that’s right, a cow.”
- Help your child as needed.
- Give answer and child repeats. “This is a calf.”
- Add a little bit more information.
- “A calf is a baby cow. It’s brown with white spots.”
- Praise and encourage your child.
- Follow your child’s interests.

Part 2: Tips to Build Sentence Skills

- Ask “open-ended” questions, questions that cannot be answered with just yes or no:
 - Tell me what you see on this page.
 - What do you think is going on here?
- Follow answers with another question:
 - What else do you see?
 - I wonder how . . .
 - How do you think that happened?
 - What do you think?
- Expand what your child says:
 - Add some information
 - Add a new word or two
- Relate something in the picture to your child’s experience:
 - When have you . . . ?
 - Remember when . . . ? Tell me about it.
 - When have you felt that way?
- Help your child repeat your longer phrases.

What is dialogic reading?

- Use conversations around the pictures in books to develop children’s vocabulary and comprehension.
- Follow the child’s lead.
- Start using with children who can respond with a short phrase.

What kinds of books work best?

Books that

- Have clear pictures
- Have a simple story
- Are not too long
- Have pictures of things that are familiar to your child
- Show action and detail in the pictures
- Are interesting to your child

The way you talk with your children as you read books together makes a difference in their being ready to learn to read.

Children often like to hear the same book over and over again. There are many ways to read books with your children. You can share the same book in different ways each time you read it.