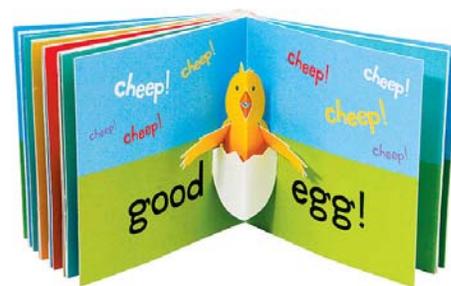


Beneficial Books

The primary step in establishing effective communication with the use of reading is choosing the right books. Choosing the right books can be a challenge; however, once you discover which types of books your child is the most successful with, you will have accomplished the most vital step in facilitating effective communication.

Books that promote the greatest degree of success include:

- Large/detailed pictures
- Colorful illustrations
- Familiar objects
- Familiar cartoons/favorite characters
- It is important to choose books with topics that your child likes because he/she will attend to it longer.



Types of books that most effectively facilitate language include:

- Durable books: For children that bite or chew on books, it is important to choose ones that are made from sturdy materials instead of paper.

Examples: Books such as *Mama and Baby*, *Creep Crawl*, and *Mary Had a Little Lamb*, are all made by a company called Indestructibles.

- Interactive books: Books that have flaps, stickers, buttons, or different texture are beneficial in teaching your child that books are fun. Looking at interactive books with your child is a great way to learn about his/her sensory preferences.

Examples: *Pat the Bunny* and *Pat the Puppy* by E. Kunhardt.

- Labeling books: Books which have simple objects or pictures in order to practice labeling, pointing, and identifying can be very beneficial for your child. For pages with crowded detailed pictures, it is a good idea to play a game where your child has to find a certain object in the picture.

Examples: *Looking at Animals* by Price, Stern, & Sloan. *Find it Board Books (Find the Teddy, Kitten, Bird, Puppy, Duck, and Piglet)* by Cartwright and Zeff.

- Predictable books: Books which have rhyming and repeating words or sentences are a favorite of many children. Predictable books make reading a pleasant experience for the child because it is easier to read books with predictive text as opposed to other types of books.

Examples: *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do you See?* by B. Martin.

- Simple story books: A simple story book is a great way to facilitate language during reading time. The simplicity of such books makes it convenient to talk about the pictures by forming words and phrases that are easy for your child to understand. A great way to tie in expressive language while reading simple story books is by asking your child yes/no questions.
- "Make your own" books: Making your own book is a wonderful way to spend time with your child and learn about his/her sensory preferences!

Adapted from: *More Than Words* by Fern Sussman & *The Out-of Sync Child Has Fun* by Carol Stock Kranowitz