

Picture Pointing

Primary Objectives

17a. Uses and appreciates books and other texts

Why It's Important

Richly illustrated books with pictures of familiar and unfamiliar objects will engage your child and encourage her interest in pictures, print, books, and reading.

Materials

Picture books

What You Do

1. Set up books in various areas of your home, such as near pretend play materials, in active areas, and in quiet areas. Look for opportunities to read books with your child alone or with one or two other children.
2. Select a book and tell your child that you have a book to read with her. *Remember when we saw a caterpillar outside this morning? Let's read about this very hungry caterpillar. This book is called The Very Hungry Caterpillar.*
3. As you read, talk to your child about the pictures. Encourage her to point to any familiar objects. *Look, there is a watermelon on this page. Do you see it? Yes, there it is! You love watermelon, don't you? Yum!*
4. Point out new objects to your child and describe them. *This big brown oval is called a cocoon. It is where the caterpillar stays until it becomes a butterfly. Can you say cocoon?*
5. Encourage your child to explore the book on her own. Guide her as appropriate. For example, if she holds the book upside down, turn it over for her and say, *That tree is upside-down. Can you make it right-side up? There we go.*
6. Use language to reinforce what your child does as she explores the book. *Yes, there's the strawberry. I see you pointing to the strawberry. Can you find the hole in the pickle? There it is. You found the hole!*
7. Plan opportunities for books and reading based on your child's natural preferences. If she enjoys looking at books during quieter times of the day, read books during quiet moments and before and after naps. If she prefers to physically hold and explore books, read a story beside her and allow her to listen while you read aloud.