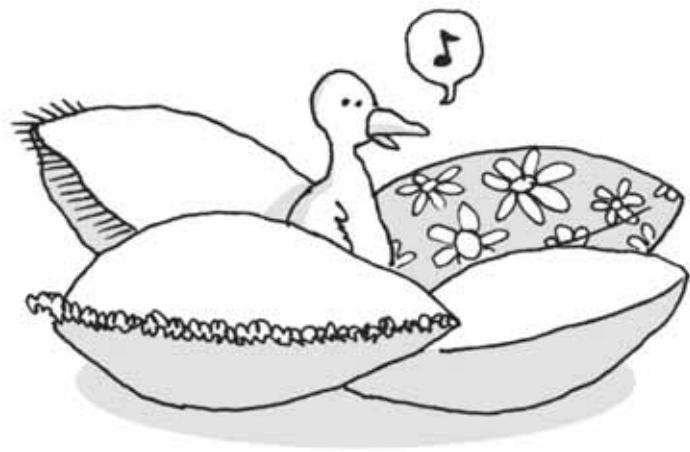


Suggestions for Sharing Picture Books with Young Children



Make a special reading space in your home. This could be as simple as designating a certain chair the “reading chair” or you could have a special blanket that you put on the floor for a book picnic, or a big pile of pillows called the “reading nest.”

Books can be expensive, so get a library card and visit your local library with your children. Attend storytimes, check out big stacks of books, browse through the shelves together, and spend time reading at the library.

Board books are sturdier than paperbacks and are less expensive than hardcover books. Having lots of board books readily available to your children will help to increase their own sense of entitlement to books because you will not be so worried about the chance that they will wreck the pages. Don't worry if your young child wants to chew on a board book—she is simply telling you that she likes it and that it is hers. This is a good thing, even if it means that she eventually destroys a \$6.95 book; she will grow out of this habit, but her sense of comfort with books will last a lifetime. You can always buy another copy. (If your child damages a library book, don't be too worried. Most children's librarians will be understanding and are used to replacing chewed up board books or taping ripped pages.)



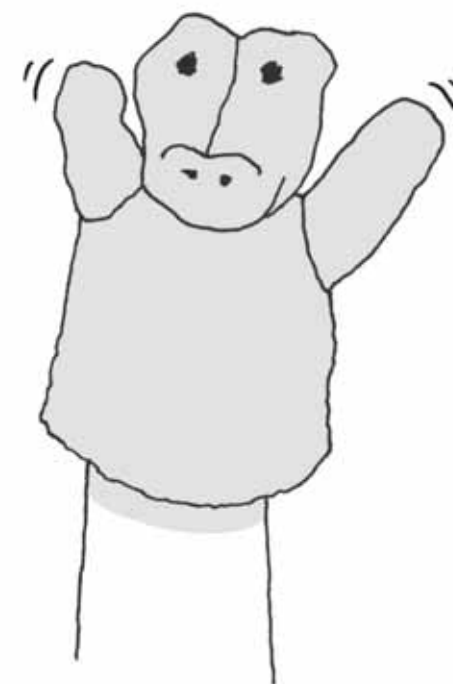
Books with interesting physical designs can help to engage a child with a picture book reading experience. For example, your son might want to poke his fingers into the holes in the food in *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, or your daughter might enjoy books with special textures that she can touch and explore as you read the corresponding words.

Look for books centered on favorite songs—these often help to engage children with picture books.

Encourage your child to participate in the telling of the story—for example, step away from the reading of the words on a page to ask your son what a certain animal on the page says or simply ask your child to describe what she sees in an illustration.



Get silly. Do not be embarrassed about using silly voices for characters in picture books. Your child will love you for it, and you will be showing him that it is ok to use imagination.



Encourage your child to act out different parts of a story as you read to her—with puppets or with her own body.

Get books with read along story-tapes from the library or in a bookstore so that your child can enjoy listening to a story and looking at pictures when you are unable to take the time to read to him.

Ask librarians, teachers, and other parents for book suggestions—and share your own ideas too.

As she gets older, help your child to make her own books. Ask her to tell you a story and write it down word for word and then have her draw pictures to go with the story. Or, look at a drawing that he has already made and ask him to tell you a story about the drawing.



The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art



Founded in part by Eric Carle, the renowned author and illustrator of more than 70 books printed in 30 languages, including the 1969 classic *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art is the first full-scale museum in America devoted to national and international picture book art, conceived and built with the aim of celebrating the art that we are first exposed to as children. Through the exploration of images that are familiar and beloved, it is the Museum's goal to foster connections between visual and verbal literacy and to provide visitors of all ages and backgrounds with the confidence to appreciate and enjoy art of every kind.

The Museum—which houses three galleries dedicated to rotating exhibitions of picture book art, a hands-on Art Studio, a Reading Library, an Auditorium, and a popular Café and Museum Shop—is located at 125 West Bay Road, Amherst, MA.

Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 12 noon to 4 p.m. For further information on the Museum and its programs call 413-658-1100 or visit the Museum's Website at www.picturebookart.org.

Discover the Fine Art of Reading

Books, particularly picture books, carry readers into worlds beyond their imagination. That's why the National Education Association's Read Across America is pleased to share this reading message with The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art. Whether you're 4, 14, or 64, the magical world of books open the floodgates of imagination where the familiar and unfamiliar, realistic and fantastic, await your discovery.

It's why reading, for pleasure as well as education, is key at every age and in every language. Sharing a book is a delicious pleasure for young and old. Parents, grandparents, and other adults in a child's life can help build a long life of reading. Teens can pick up a picture book and not only appreciate the fine artistry but often see the deeper meaning and more complex story in many books. Children can see the magic that comes with reading.

Join the NEA's Read Across America and The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art and discover new ways to share the world of books and reading. For more resources and information, go to www.nea.org/readacross.

NEA's Read Across America is a year-round literacy program offering resources, grants, and programs to help all children and teens read. Join NEA's Read Across America on March 2 for NEA's Read Across America Day, a day to celebrate the joys of reading.



*Great Public Schools
for Every Child*