

# How to choose good books



## **If your child is under 18 months:**

- Select books with cloth, plastic or hard pages.
- Point out the pictures, name the object, repeat words and use gestures.
- Let children try to turn the pages and even put books in their mouth.
- Make animal or fun sounds like “bump”, “splash”

## **If your child is 18 months-3 years:**

- Show them books with simple pictures of objects and actions that they can name.
- Make reading fun by changing your voice for different parts.
- Ask a few question like “Who is it?” “What is he doing?”

## **If your child is 3-4 years:**

- Children like books with imagination and surprise
- Let them guess the ending or make up something new in favorite stories
- Use short sentences and let your child fill in some words.
- Ask your child “what happens next?”
- Read with a lot of expression in your voice

## **If your child is 5 years or older:**

- Choose books with longer stories
- Choose books with simple words
- Use new words and ideas to explain the story.
- Let your child tell you the story.
- Child with start to recognize letters and simple words

## How to make reading fun



- Be animated
- Use different voices
- Smile a lot, make funny faces
- Use props or stuffed animals
- Make funny sounds “BANG, BOOM”
- Make animal sounds “WOUF-WOUF”
- Name the objects, people and actions in the pictures
- Do the actions of the people in the story
- Do the actions of the animals i.e. flapping our arms like a bird, swimming like a fish
- Find a quiet, convenient time to read every day
- Try reading words on signs, magazines or cereal boxes

## Remember these key messages:

- Reading can be talking about pictures in a book, you don't have to read the words, you can talk about what you and your child(ren) see in the pictures.
- You can make up your own stories using the pictures in the book or use them to tell stories about your own family
- It is okay to skip some of the words in a book or stop to answer questions that your child(ren) might have.
- You don't have to buy books. You can borrow books from the library, purchase them at garage sales or even make your own using flyers, catalogues and craft materials.