



## Infant/Toddler Use Books with Children & Encouraging the Use of Books

Books should be accessible to children and cover a wide variety of topics including: races, ages, abilities, animals, familiar routines, and familiar objects. Book times should be pleasant and allow for all children to easily view the book. Pointing at words\letters assists children develop early literacy skills.

Group book times should be set up with positive engagement and the children's interest in mind. Teachers should make book times warm and interactive and encourage children to look at the pages, point to pictures, ask questions, and be interactive.



Children should be allowed to leave the story group when/if they lose interest. They should not be forced to participate.

Informal reading with individuals and small groups should be a regular practice throughout the day in a cozy space. Teachers should provide extended positive interaction when children use books independently. If children do not show interest in the book center, the teacher should evaluate the space and ensure the area is inviting to children. Using books enthusiastically with children in the reading area should be a daily practice done throughout the day.

Books should not be violent or frightening to children. There should be no story lines or pictures of violence. A good rule of thumb is to remove any book that you would not like the children to act out.