

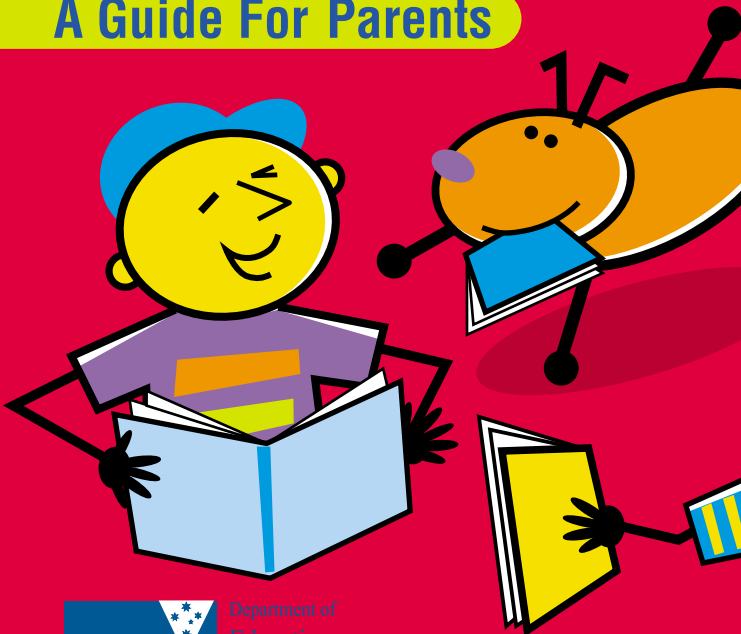


Early Years

# Books for Kids

*Choosing books for Children  
in the Early Years of Schooling*

**A Guide For Parents**



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GPO Box 4367, Melbourne 3001, Australia.

The book titles and websites contained in this booklet were provided by

School Library Association of Victoria (SLAV).

<http://sunrise.eng.monash.edu.au/slav/>

They were carefully selected to represent a range of styles with the aim of listing readily available quality literature that can be enjoyed by children alone or shared with adults.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Department of Education, Employment and Training thanks the following publishers for permission to use their book covers:

### ABC Books

Bob the Builder and the Elves, Emily Rodda, Illustrated by Craig Smith

Red Hot Jokes for Cool Kids, Andy Jones, Illustrated by Stephen Axelsen

### Allen and Unwin

Nim's Island, Wendy Orr, Illustrated by Kerry Millard

Tashi, Anna and Barb Fienburg, Illustrated by Kim Gamble

### Harper Collins Publishers

Edward the Emu, Sheena Knowles, Illustrated by Rod Clement

### Hodder Children's Books

Pobblebonks, Gary Fleming

### Penguin Books Australia Ltd

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Gasp!, Terry Denton

Miss Lily's Fabulous Pink Feather Boa, Margaret Wild,

Illustrated by Kerry Argent

The Too Tight Tutu, Sherryl Clarke, Illustrated by Cathy Wilcox

The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Eric Carle

Who Sank the Boat? Pamela Allen

### Scholastic Australia

Bamboozled, David Legge

Possum Magic, Mem Fox, Illustrated by Julie Vivas

**Books for Kids** provides a list of children's books to help parents to select appropriate books for children at different stages of reading development.

The book titles are listed in broad stages and are generally available in libraries and bookshops. Further information can be obtained from the websites listed.

Parents can be guided in their selection of books by the child's interests.



## Sharing books with children

As a parent you can help your child's learning. Valuing and sharing books from a very early age is one way you can encourage children to learn to read. Children who speak a language other than English will benefit from being read to in both English and their home language.

Making a special time to read books can become a comfortable and pleasurable part of the daily routine. A bedtime story is the ideal time to share the wonder and excitement contained within the pages of a book.

Reading together can be a cherished part of childhood. The aim is for children not only to become readers but also to enjoy reading and want to read.



*Reading to ...*  
*Reading with ...*  
*Reading by ...*

Depending on the kind of book being read and its degree of difficulty, you will need to decide whether it will be read to the child, with the child or by the child.



**Reading to** children shows how reading a book works – you are demonstrating what you do when you read aloud by providing a model for the child. You can also show that reading is an enjoyable activity and that reading can be used to gain information. Reading books to children enables them to hear and enjoy books they would be unable to read alone. Read to children often ... just for the fun of it!

**Reading with** a child occurs when you share a book together. This can be satisfying for the child who will gain confidence through the support of a more able reader. Taking turns to read and being able to join in as they feel confident allows the child to see and think of themselves as a reader. Books that have repeated sentences or phrases are great for this.

**Reading by** the child offers time for the child to read appropriate books by themselves. This may involve reading aloud or silently. It may be re-reading favourite books many times or browsing through more difficult books that interest them.



## Children who are beginning to read ...

- are learning about how to handle books
- are finding out about how text works – where a book starts and finishes and the way to follow print, left to right
- like to look at books and enjoy being read to
- often like repeated readings of favourite books
- rely heavily on memory and the use of pictures to gain meaning from the book when attempting reading on their own.



## Some books to choose from ...

### **ABC of Australian Animals**

Steve Parish,  
Steve Parish Publishing

### **Alice and Aldo**

Alison Lester,  
Allen & Unwin  
(A Little Ark Book)

### **Are You My Mother?**

Philip D. Eastman,  
Random House

### **Bathtime For Biscuit**

A. S. Capucilli, Harper Collins  
(My First I Can Read series)

### **Brown Bear, Brown Bear**

Bill Martin Jr., Penguin Books (Puffin)

### **The Barmah Bunyip**

Sue Briggs-Pattison, Scholastic Australia

### **Celeste Sails to Spain**

Alison Lester, Hodder Children's Books Australia

### **Dear Zoo**

Rod Campbell, Penguin Books

### **Ernie Dances to the Didgeridoo**

Alison Lester,  
Hodder Children's Books  
Australia

### **Elmer (series)**

David McKee, Random House

### **Fat Cat on a Mat**

Phil Roxbee Cox,  
Usborne (Easy Words to Read series)

### **Gerda the Goose**

Hiawyn Oram, Hodder Children's Books

### **Hairy Maclary (series)**

Lynley Dodd, Penguin Books (Puffin)



***I Can Build a House***

Shigeo Watanabe,  
Random House (Red Fox)  
(I Can Do It series)

***I Can Read***

Dick Bruna,  
Methuen Young Books

***I Went Walking***

Sue William, Red Wagon

***Josh***

Janet McLean,  
Allen & Unwin  
(A Little Ark Book)

***King Bidgood's in the Bathtub***

Audrey Wood, Harcourt Brace

***Look and See***

Shane Morgan, Magabala Aboriginal Corporation

***Mr McGee (series)***

Pamela Allen, Viking (Penguin Books)

***No Matter What***

Debi Gliori, Harcourt Brace

***One Horse Waiting For Me***

Patricia Mullins, Scholastic Australia

***One Woolly Wombat***

Rod Trinca, Omnibus Books

***Our Granny***

Margaret Wild,  
Houghton Mifflin Co.

***Rosie's Walk***

Pat Hutchins,  
The Bodley Head

***Shoes from Grandpa***

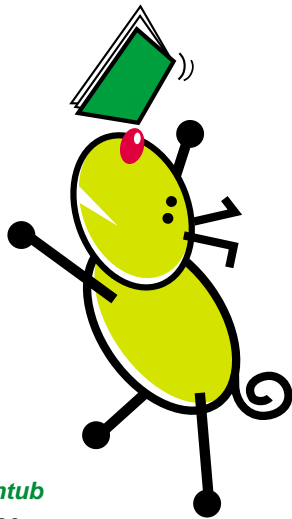
Mem Fox,  
Scholastic Australia

***Sunshine***

Jan Omerod, Penguin Books (Puffin)

***Ten Dogs in the Window: A Countdown Book***

Claire Masurel, North South Books



***Ten in a Bed***

Allan Ahlberg, Penguin  
Books (Puffin)

***The Eye Book***

Dr Seuss,  
Random House  
(Bright and Early Book series)

***The Freight Train***

Donald Crews, Beech Tree Books

***The Very Hungry Caterpillar***

Eric Carle, Penguin Books (Picture Puffin)

***What's for Lunch?***

David Miller, Hodder Children's Books

***We're Going on a Bear Hunt***

Michael Rosen, Walker Books

***Where the Wild Things Are***

Maurice Sendak, Harper Collins

***Where's Spot?***

Eric Hill, Heinemann

***Who Sank the Boat?***

Pamela Allen, Penguin Books (Puffin)

***Whose Shoes?***

Jeanette Rowe, ABC Books

***Za Za's Baby Brother***

Lucy Cousins, Walker Books



***Add some of your  
favourites ...***

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## Children who are building on early reading experiences ...

- realise that the print tells a story or relates information
- use pictures to help them understand the story/text
- understand that the words convey a constant message
- begin to match written words to spoken words when reading with or to a more able reader
- love to listen to stories and to hear patterns of speech when an adult reads to them
- start to develop an awareness of themselves as a reader.



## Some books to choose from ...

### **Animalia**

Graeme Base, Viking Kestrel

### **Bamboozled**

David Legge,  
Scholastic Australia

### **Big Rain Coming**

Katrina Germein,  
Roland Harvey Books

### **Buffy: An Adventure Story**

Bob Graham, Walker Books

### **Bunyips Don't**

Sally Odgers, Scholastic Australia

### **Cat Chocolate**

Kate Darling, Omnibus Books (Solo series)

### **DK Kid's First Cook Book**

Helen Drew and Angela Wilkes, Dorling Kindersley

### **Dogger**

Shirley Hughes, Mulberry Books

### **Edward the Emu**

Sheena Knowles, Harper Collins (Angus & Robinson)

### **Fantastic Daisy Artichoke**

Quentin Blake, Jonathon Cape Children's Books

### **First Day**

Margaret Wild, Allen & Unwin (A Little Ark Book)

### **Franklin (series)**

Paulette Bourgeois,  
Scholastic Inc

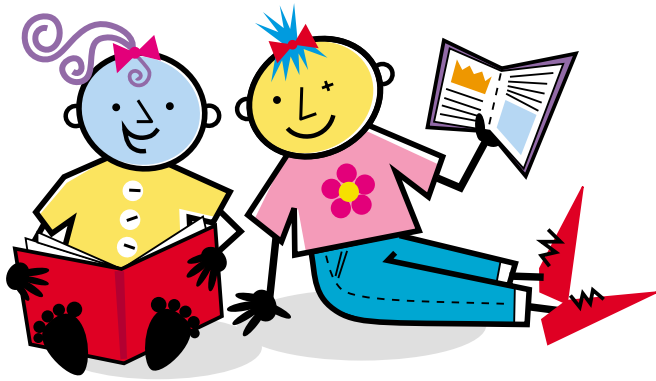
### **Giraffes Can't Dance**

Giles Andreae, Watts

### **Guess How Much I Love You?**

Sam McBratney,  
Walker Books





***I Want Earrings***

Dyan Blacklock, Omnibus Books (Solo series)

***Koala Lou***

Mem Fox, Harcourt Brace

***Meg and Mog (series)***

Helen Nicholl, Penguin Books (Puffin)

***Mr Gumpy's Motor Car***

John Burningham, Harper Collins

***Mr Magnolia***

Quentin Blake, Random House (Red Fox)

***Mmmm Turtle***

Sue Briggs-Pattison, Scholastic Australia

***Now We Are Six***

A. A. Milne, Puffin

***Pobblebonks***

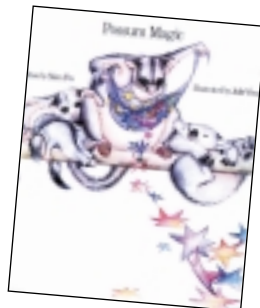
Garry Fleming, Hodder Children's Books

***Possum Magic***

Mem Fox, Omnibus Books

***Queenie the Bantam***

Bob Graham, Walker Books



***Rose Meets Mr Wintergarten***

Bob Graham, Walker Books

***Smelly Jelly Smelly Fish***

Michael Rosen and Quentin Blake, Walker Books

***Suddenly***

Colin McNaughton, Voyager Picture Books

***Terrific Trains***

Tony Mitton, Larousse Kingfisher Chambers

***Titch (series)***

Pat Hutchins, Aladdin Paperbacks

***Trouble With Mum***

Babette Cole, Mammoth

***What a Mess, Fang Fang***

Sally Rippin, Scholastic Australia

***Wombat Stew***

Marcia K.Vaughan, Scholastic Australia

***Yo Yo Goes to the Park***

Jeanette Rowe, ABC Books



*Add some of your favourites ...*

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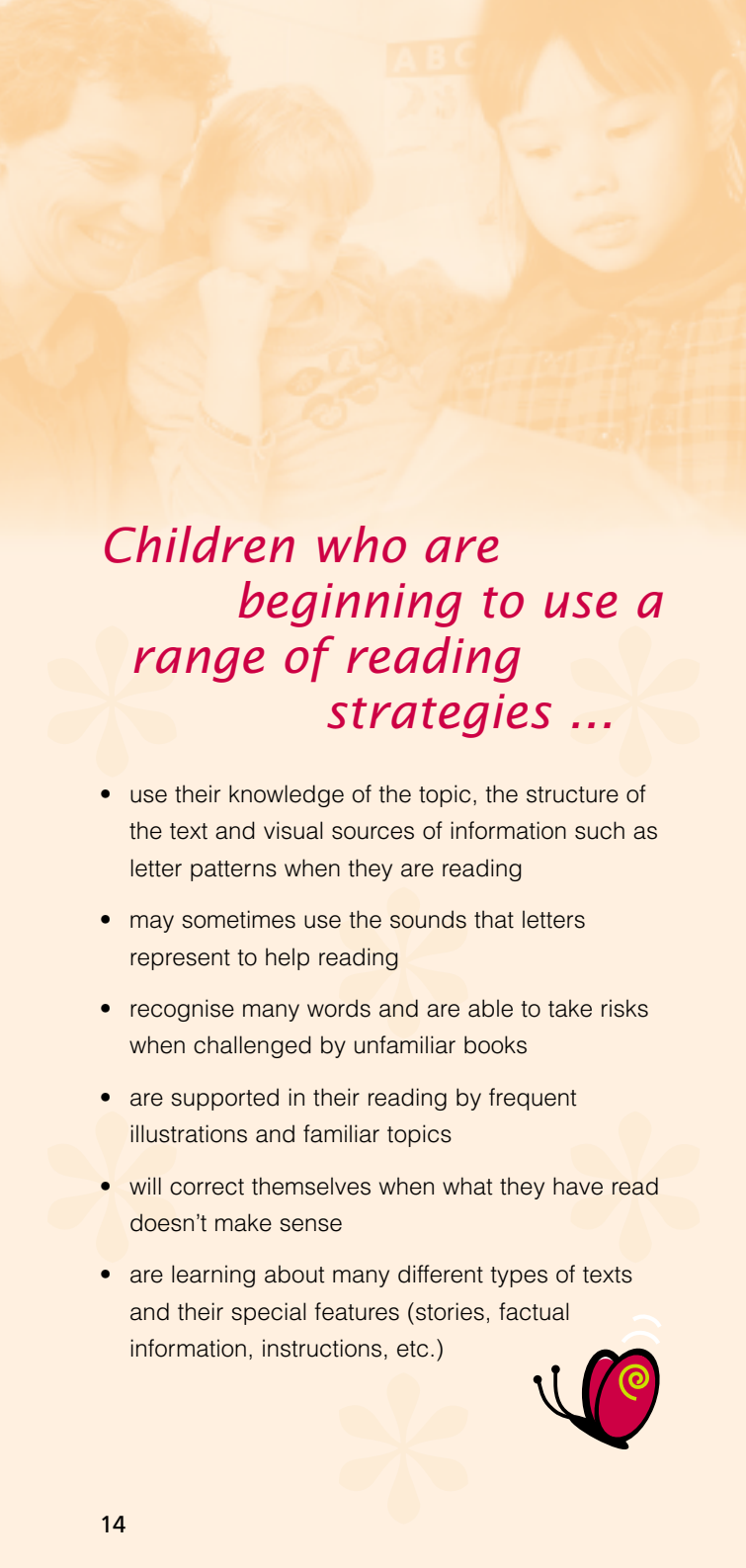


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*Children who are  
beginning to use a  
range of reading  
strategies ...*

- use their knowledge of the topic, the structure of the text and visual sources of information such as letter patterns when they are reading
- may sometimes use the sounds that letters represent to help reading
- recognise many words and are able to take risks when challenged by unfamiliar books
- are supported in their reading by frequent illustrations and familiar topics
- will correct themselves when what they have read doesn't make sense
- are learning about many different types of texts and their special features (stories, factual information, instructions, etc.)



## *Some books to choose from ...*

### ***Ark in the Park***

Wendy Orr, Henry Holt and Co

### ***Bilbies***

Macmillan  
(Macmillan Young Library series – Australian Animals)

### ***Billy the Punk***

Jessica Carroll,  
Random House Australia

### ***Bob the Builder and the Elves***

Emily Rodda, ABC Books

### ***Bugalugs Bum Thief***

Tim Winton, Penguin Books

### ***Crusher is Coming***

Bob Graham, Harper Collins (Picture Lions)

### ***Dreadful David***

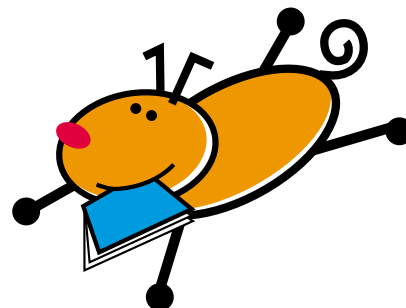
Sally Ogders, Omnibus Books

### ***Gasp! The Breathtaking Adventures of a Fish Left Home Alone***

Terry Denton, Penguin Books (Puffin)

### ***Grandad's Teeth***

Rod Clement, Harper Collins (Angus and Robertson)



**Greetings from Sandy Beach**

Bob Graham, Lothian

**Henry and Amy**

Stephen Michael King,  
Scholastic Australia

**Honey Sandwich**

Elizabeth Honey,  
Allen & Unwin  
(A Little Ark Book)

**How Big is a Whale?**

Jinny Johnson,  
Rand McNally

**I Spy Treasure Hunt:  
A Book of Picture Riddles**

Walter Wick, Scholastic Inc  
(I Spy series)

**I Wonder Why (series)**

Kingfisher Publications

**Travelling Solo to Japan**

Scholastic  
(Travelling Solo series)

**Miss Lily's Fabulous Pink Feather Boa**

Margaret Wild, Penguin Books

**Mrs Armitage and the Big Wave**

Quentin Blake, Harcourt Brace

**Not a Nibble**

Elizabeth Honey, Allen & Unwin  
(A Little Ark Book)

**Old Tom (series)**

Leigh Hobbs,  
Penguin Books (Puffin)

**Over the Hill and  
Around the Bend With  
Granny and Bert and Me**

Helen Lunn, Scholastic

**Pete Paddock Basher**

John Heffernan,  
Margaret Hamilton Books – Scholastic Australia



**Power and Glory**

Emily Rodda, Allen & Unwin

**Queen of the Universe**

Libby Gleeson, Omnibus Books  
(Solo series)

**Sharon Keep Your Hair On**

Gillian Rubinstein,  
Random House

**The Best Beak in Boonaroo Bay**

Narelle Oliver, Lothian Books

**The Little Book of Elephants**

Christine Harris, Hodder Headline

**There's a Hippopotamus on my Roof Eating Cake**

Hazel Edwards, ABC Books (incl. audio tape)

**The Too-tight Tutu**

Sherryl Clark, Penguin Books  
(Puffin - Aussie Bites series)

**Two Bullies**

Junko Morimoto, Random House

**Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge**

Mem Fox, Omnibus Books



*Add some of your  
favourites ...*

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## Children who are becoming fluent readers ...

- can read more varied and complex texts for longer periods of time
- read a variety of text styles and predict and correct themselves to maintain meaning
- can recognise many words
- often prefer to read silently but will share and reflect on the book to clarify the meaning and give opinions about what they have read
- will select reading resources appropriate for their purposes from libraries, school collections and the internet
- enjoy having the opportunity to listen to reading by others.



## Some books to choose from ...

### ***A Wombat Named Bosco***

Jackie French, Harper Collins

### ***Absolutely Best Cross Sections Ever***

Stephen Biesty, Dorling Kindersley

### ***Asterix (series)***

Gosciny & Uderzo, Hodder Dargaud

### ***Australian Kangaroos – Magnificent Macropods***

Jill Morris and Lynne Muir, Greater Glider

### ***Bartlett and the Ice Voyage***

Odo Hirsch, Allen & Unwin (A Little Ark Book)

### ***Counting on Frank***

Rod Clements, Harper Collins (Angus and Robertson)

### ***Deltora Quest (series)***

Emily Rodda, Scholastic Australia

### ***Detective Donut and the Wild Goose Chase***

Bruce Whatley and Rosie Smith, Harper Collins

### ***Discover and Learn (series)***

Steve Parish, Steve Parish Publishing

### ***Dreaming of Antarctica***

Jane Godwin, Penguin Books (Puffin)

### ***Fishing for Islands***

John Nicholson, Allen and Unwin

### ***Fort Island***

David Metzenthén, Puffin (Aussie Bites series)

### ***Fox***

Margaret Wild, Allen & Unwin

### ***Hazel Green***

Odo Hirsch, Allen & Unwin

### ***How Science Works***

Judith Haan, Dorling Kindersley

### ***If ...***

Sarah Perry, Scholastic Australia

### ***Jake and Pete***

Gillian Rubinstein,  
Random House Australia

### ***Just Another Ordinary Day***

Rod Clements, Harper Collins



**Killer Plants and How to Grow Them**

Gordon Cheers and Julie Silk, Penguin Books (Puffin)

**Making Friends With Frankenstein- A Book of Monstrous Poems**

Colin McNaughton, Walker Books

**Man Eaters and Bloodsuckers**

Kirsty Murray, Allen & Unwin (True Stories series)

**Mongrel Doggerel**

Elizabeth Honey, Allen & Unwin (A Little Ark Book)

**Nim's Island**

Wendy Orr, Allen & Unwin

**Not Again Dad**

Thurley Fowler, Penguin Books (Young Puffin)

**One Less Fish**

Kim Michelle Taft and Allan Sheather, University of Queensland Press

**Red Hot Jokes for Kool Kids**

Andy Jones, ABC Books

**Relax Max**

Brian Caswell, University of Queensland Press (Story Bridge series)

**Selby (series)**

Duncan Ball, Harper Collins

**Sharks Keep Losing Their Teeth**

Copper Beech Books (I Didn't Know That Series)

**Sick As: Bloody Moments in the History of Medicine**

Gael Jennings, Roland Harvey Books

**Singenpoo (series)**

Paul Jennings, Penguin Books (Puffin)

**Skating on Sand: Hannah Knew We'd Find a Way**

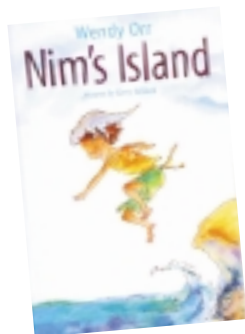
Libby Hathorn, Penguin Books (Viking)

**Spooner or Later**

Paul Jennings and Ted Greenwood, Penguin Books (Viking)

**Spud**

John Heffernan, Margaret Hamilton Books Scholastic Australia



**Tashi (series)**

Anna and Barbara Fienberg, Allen & Unwin (A Little Ark Book)

**The Adventures of Robin Hood**

Marcia Williams, Walker Books

**The Cabbage Patch Fib**

Paul Jennings, Penguin Books

**The Hunt**

Narelle Oliver, Lothian Books

**The Last Alchemist**

Colin Thompson, Random House

**The Story of Rosy Dock**

Jeannie Baker, Random House

**Usborne Puzzle Adventure (series)**

Usborne

**Victor's Quest**

Pamela Freeman, Omnibus Books

**Weslandia**

Paul Fleischman, Walker Books

**Wish You Were Here (and I Wasn't) - A Book of Poems**

Colin Mc Naughton, Walker Books

**World of Adventure (series)**

Gary Paulsen, Yearling Books

**Zarconi's Magic Flying Fish**

Kirsty Murray, Allen & Unwin



Add some of your favourites ...

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## Reading with your child

- \* Relax .... and enjoy ... some quality time together
- \* Take advantage of current 'crazes' in books. Read them together and discuss
- \* Encourage your child to select books to read ... talk about their choice ... respect their decision
  - \* Join your local library
- \* Look for reading everywhere ... read signs at the supermarket, near roads, on packaging ...
- \* Listen to taped stories while following the text in the book
- \* Become an author – write books of your own
- \* Offer a wide choice of reading material ... fiction, factual, newspapers, magazines ...
- \* Make reading an everyday activity
- \* Visit bookshops together. Buy books and magazines from department stores, specialty book shops, secondhand shops
- \* Make the reading time enjoyable for everyone ... five minutes of fun is better than ten minutes of struggle
- \* Swap books ... start a book club with friends
- \* Read lots of different books to preschoolers – flap books, board books, shape books, concept books
- \* Make puppets, plays, drawings, paintings of book characters
- \* Read books together in your first language
- \* Share books together often ... involve other family members ... older brothers and sisters, grandparents, aunties, uncles
- \* Display an interest in reading yourself ... let your child see you reading
- \* Provide a bedside lamp ... develop the habit of bedtime reading
- \* Keep reading aloud to older children. They benefit greatly from being read to ... it opens up a world of books they may otherwise not access
- \* Check internet sites and computer software
- \* Select different forms of print ... comics ... activity books and puzzle books
- \* Praise children ... "I like the way you ..." "You must have been practising ..."
- \* Ask about the book ... and encourage your child to ask you about books
- \* Attend author signings at local book shops or libraries
- \* Talk about books, authors, illustrators
- \* Provide reading materials that relate to the special interests of the child



## Some useful web sites

More information about children's books can be obtained from the many websites available. Listed here are just some sites which were current at the time of publication.

Many popular authors have their own websites. A specific search for an author or publisher will enable you to access lots of potential sites.

### General sites

#### **ACHUKA – Children's Books**

<http://www.achuka.co.uk/index2.html>

Provides extensive information and links on children's literature in the UK. Includes topical issues, authors and award links.

#### **Database of Award-winning Children's Literature**

<http://www2.wcoil.com/~ellerbee/childlit.html>

Searchable Reading levels are from Pre-school to 12+ and a range of genres and themes are also included.

#### **librariesvictoria**

<http://www.librariesvictoria.net>

All you need to know about libraries in Victoria! Features of the web site include a public library location finder, an events calendar, access to Victoria's Virtual Library with online catalogue searching and more.

### **Needle in a CyberStack – Children's and YA Literature on the Web**

<http://members.home.net/albeej/pages/KidLit.htm>

A huge collection of literary links including book award sites, book reviews and author sites for children and young adults.

### **Australian resources**

#### **Focus on Fiction – Education Department of Western Australia**

<http://www.eddept.wa.edu.au/centoff/cmis/eval/fiction/>

Worth checking out for its extensive range of literature information and links.

#### **OzKidz Literature**

<http://www.ozkidz.gil.com.au/OzLit/ozlit.html>

See here for many links and resources for children's literature.

#### **Kids Books**

<http://kidsbooks.about.com/mbody.htm>

For information about many children's authors.

### **Fairy tales and folklore**

#### **Tales of Wonder**

<http://members.xoom.com/darsie/tales/index.html>

A collection of folk and fairy tales from a range of nations and cultures. Links to other folk tale sites are also provided and contributions of tales are invited.

### **Booksellers and publishers**

#### **Amazon.com**

<http://www.amazon.com/>

More than a bookstore, this provides a range of information resources on children's literature. They include student, parent and teacher resources, genre links and book reviews.

## Activities and programs

### The Read In

<http://www.readin.org/>

Established to promote reading across all ages (K-12) and includes an optional online interactive component.

## Award winning and notable books

### Children's Book Awards

#### (Children's Literature Web Guide)

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/awards.html>

Quite an extensive overview of a range of Australian and international children's book awards.

### Children's Book Council of Australia

<http://www.cbc.org.au>

See here for information on Book Week and the Australian Children's and Young Adults' Books of the Year.

### YABBA – Young Australians' Best Book Award

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~yabba/>

Established to promote Australian children's fiction, YABBA gives readers the chance to have their say on the best author or book of the year.

### United Kingdom

#### Library Association Medals & Awards

<http://www.la-hq.org.uk/directory/medals.html>

Information on current and past shortlists and winners of the Carnegie Medal (children's fiction) and the Kate Greenaway Medal (for illustration in children's books).

### United States of America

#### ALSC – Awards and Notables

<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awards.html>

Created and compiled for the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a Division of the American Library Association, this provides extensive coverage of North American award and notable works.

## Comet and Explore Australia's Leading Children's Magazines—

- magazines that sparkle with reading opportunities for youngsters.
- pictures, stories, activities, puzzles and interesting facts.

These magazines provide the ideal way to encourage all children to become readers. Linked to the Early Years Literacy Program, *Comet* and *Explore* can be delivered to your home four times a year.

*Comet* is for children aged 5–7 years.

*Explore* is for children aged 8–10 years.

Magazine		Price	
<b>Comet</b>	(4 issues per year)	\$22.00	\$
<b>Explore</b>	(4 issues per year)	\$22.00	\$
(prices GST inclusive)			<b>TOTAL \$</b>

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# Books for Kids

*When selecting books ask yourself ...*

## **Will the book be of interest to your child?**

Think about your child's interests, hobbies or sports. We all like to read about the things that matter most to us.

## **Are there other books by favourite authors or in the same series which could complement this book?**

Particular books or authors they may have enjoyed before are a great guide when selecting books.

## **Can the book relate to classroom activities?**

Sometimes a school project can provide stimulus for pursuing a particular type of book.

## **Is the book affordable?**

Books make great presents.

## **Will the book provide an example of a different style?**

Explore different forms of illustration (photos, cartoons) and presentation (audio books, electronic text and puzzle books).



## **Will the book become a treasured part of a book collection?**

Great readers love to collect their favourites to re-read over and over again.

Seek advice from others – children, librarians, teachers, book sellers, authors are great for recommending popular titles.

Try to choose books for children that suit their ability and interest regardless of their age, gender or year level.



*You can find out more by ...*

Contacting your child's school

Visiting your local library (contact 1300 362 962)

Browsing the Early Years of Schooling website at

<http://www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/eys>

Telephoning the Education Line on

(03) 9637 2222 or 1800 809 834 (freecall)