



Tips on

Choosing Books For Children

Building a book collection with lots of variety will make reading with children enjoyable and will open their eyes to new ideas about the world around them. When choosing books for children, asking the questions below can help you find high-quality, educational books.

- **Will you and the children enjoy these books?**
- **Does your book involve things your children like to do** or things they are experiencing?
- **Is the print large enough** for children to follow along as you read?
- **Does the book use language that children can understand** and introduce new experiences?
- **Does the book celebrate the sounds of language** by using rhymes, catchy phrases, or silly sounds?
- **Will the illustrations or photographs catch children's imaginations** and help them to understand the text?
- **Does the book introduce children to different cultures, languages, and ways of life?**
- **Is there a variety of books that represent different races, genders, ages, abilities?**
- **Do the relationships in the story encourage positive interactions**, such as cooperation and problem solving?
- **Does your book collection include a variety of books**, including poetry, rhyming and non-rhyming books, folk-tales, picture books, predictable books, fairy tales, song books, and informational books?
- **Does your collection include books in the language(s)** that your children speak at home?

Adapted from the educational resource *Learn and Grow with Sesame Workshop: From Language to Literacy*. Courtesy of Sesame Workshop. You can purchase copies of the full text in English or Spanish as well as similar resources at: <http://www.sesameworkshop.org/educationalresources>

To learn more, watch *A Place of Our Own* on your local public television stations and visit the website at www.aplaceofourown.org.

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