

Enfield Public Schools

The Elementary Reading
Department

Research shows that reading books ALOUD is the single most valuable support parents can provide in helping children learn to read.

PURPOSE

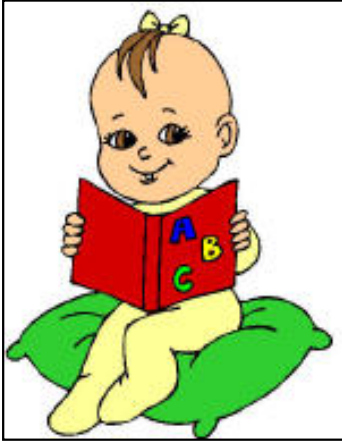
To promote literacy for newborns in the town of Enfield.

GOALS

1. Parents should read aloud with their infants and preschoolers daily.
2. Children will learn that a book is a wonderful thing.
3. Parents must encourage reading and writing at an early age.

Babies & Toddlers

(Ages 0 to 3)



Although they can't read, children under 3 years will enjoy a book as much as a stuffed toy or jack-in-the-box if it is designed for them. Books with simple, bold and brightly colored illustrations of familiar objects with little text will be the best bet. If the book is read aloud, choose one with simple words and a good rhythm. Sense of touch is as important as sight in this age group. Cloth books, board books, illustrations to touch and feel, and books in different shapes are sure winners. Cloth books are made from washable cloth or vinyl-coated paper and printed with non-toxic inks. Bath books are made from waterproof vinyl that floats. These books can be safely washed, chewed or dunked in the tub.

Board books are constructed of sturdy cardboard with bright pictures and brief stories which make nursery school readiness concepts fun and exciting. Shape books are board books which are die-cut in eye-catching shapes. Novelty books to touch and feel offer a variety of additional things for the toddler to do while reading through the story. Chunky books are small, with rounded corners, just the size for small hands to safely hold. All of these books are durable, some almost indestructible, for a toddler's handling and care.

Preschool

(Ages 3 to 5)



Familiarity is the key to choosing books for this age group. Three to five year olds will enjoy books about situations and objects they can recognize. Books should contain bold illustrations and little text, although the text can be more complex in books you plan to read aloud. Mother Goose books, nursery rhymes and ABC books are an excellent choice. Preschoolers enjoy stories and poems with repetitious words and phrases that they can recite along with the reader. Also recommended are animal stories, books with scented pages, pop-up books, hardcover and paperback picture books and preschool practice workbooks.

Preschoolers can also be encouraged to invent their own stories by choosing an illustrated but wordless book where they can then create their own story to follow the pictures. Familiar characters from Sesame Street, movies and television are fun for children and stir their interest.

Beginning Readers

(Ages 5 to 8)



Children who are five, six, or seven years old are beginning to read on their own. Reading skills vary widely. Some children need simple books containing only basic stories and vocabulary; others are ready for longer, more involved books. Beginning reader books with large type, limited vocabulary and illustrations are available for the starting reader. For the more advanced readers, choose books with slightly longer text and fewer illustrations. These books have well spaced large print, relatively simple vocabulary, and pages are frequently broken up with illustration. Songbooks and activity books are also popular. Being read to is usually enjoyed just as much by this age group as the preschoolers.

Special Gifts

(All Ages)



Some books can be enjoyed by children of all ages, as well as adults. These timeless classics and books of broad appeal include picture books, poetry, collections and novels. Some of the best known are:

WHERE THE SIDEWALK ENDS

Silverstein, Harper & Row

THE GIVING TREE

Silverstein, Harper & Row

THE VELVETEEN RABBIT

Williams, Holt and Others

THE LITTLE PRINCE

de St. Exupery, Harcourt

THE TALE OF PETER RABBIT

Potter, Warne

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

Sendak, Harper & Row

THE NEW READ-ALoud HANDBOOK

Jim Trelease, Penguin



- Read **ALOUD**

- Make reading **FUN**

- **MODIFY** television viewing

- Set a **GOOD** example

- Use the **LIBRARY**

- Encourage **READING SUCCESS**