



2026 Childcan's DPIL Reading Guidelines for Children born in 2024

Before Reading With Your Child:

Snuggling together to read a book builds a child's language and learning. Reading a good book multiple times with different questions encourages a deeper understanding of language and stronger comprehension.

Point out the title and author and ask what they think the book will be about.

Find rhyming words, names of people or animals, words connected to the topic of the book

Counting is one of the easiest ways to bring math to a story, Count items on the page.

These books build upon previous skills, use repetition and predictability and use of real photo illustrations to develop learning. Books are about daily routines, body awareness, and topics familiar to your child. Nursery rhymes develop the ability to hear rhyming words and colours, letters, and numbers are common themes.

Below are some helpful guidelines to use when reading stories.

A Bedtime Yarn by Nicola Winstanley

Have your child name the colour of the yarn on each page. Find other colours like the yarn on each page. Talk about dreams and recall what happens in each person's dream. Have them talk about what they like to take to bed to keep them company.

Buffalo Fluffalo by Bess Kalb

Throughout the story the buffalo adds "alo" to the end of words. Repeat the word as it is spoken by people and again as it's spoken by this buffalo. On each page, point out the animals and name them. Have your child find the words that rhyme on each page. Talk about why the buffalo might always be so angry and not want to play with friends. After the rain has drenched all of the buffalo's coat and made him look small, talk about how all of the animals wanted to still play with the buffalo. Have your child talk about what they liked about how the animals helped the buffalo. Have your child count the animals on each page.

Crocodile Hungry by Eija Sumner

Talk about why everyone is frightened of the crocodile. What is it that the crocodile really wants to eat in this story? Talk about all the make believe things that happened in this story that would never really happen with a crocodile.

Peanut Butter and Jelly by Nadine Bernard Westcott

A favourite play rhyme and chant about that childhood culinary favourite, peanut butter and jelly, takes on super-duper proportions as two children create a table-sized sandwich from scratch.

One Rainy Day by Shobha Viswanath

This creative counting book shows the progression of a day with changing weather and the things you might do on a rainy day. The artwork is based on a collage of common materials that might perhaps spark an idea for some cut and paste artwork for you and your child to create.

Llamas With Lemonade by Ariana Koulourides

This creative ABC book introduces your child to not only the alphabet, but to a variety of creatures that they may never have heard of before. As well as a creature for each letter of the alphabet, the creature is wearing or using an object that also begins with that letter of the alphabet. Have your child pick out their favourite animal and their favourite object and say what letter they start with.

Nancy Knows by Cybele Young

Nancy Knows is the charming story of an elephant who remember lots of things, except the very thing she is trying to remember. Each spread of this whimsical, arresting picture book features fantastic miniature paper sculptures within expressive outlines of a puzzled little elephant. Talk to your child about things they forget and things even you as an adult can forget.

One Elephant Went Out to Play by Randi Hampson

What a fun way to learn to count. Enjoy the rhyming words. Have your child pick out all of the animals as they join in the fun of jumping on the spider's web.

It Bears Repeating by Tanya Tagaq

This counting book allows you to help your child point to each bear on the page and practise their counting, as the story unfolds what bears like to do. For a story time video of Tanya Tagaq reading this book, visit www.tanyatagaq.com and click on the title videos across the top of the webpage to begin listening to the author read her book. The author will also read the Inuktitut terms on the beginning of each page and then follows with the English version of the story.

Diggers Love Their Friends by Brianna Caplan Sayres

Children will love to point out all their favourite diggers, tractors, forklifts and other vehicles helping to play with their friends. Line up their digger toys and set up a construction site on a large piece of paper or on a tarp or blanket. Play with your child about what needs to be done on the construction site.

Blanket by Ruth Ohi

This wordless story is an opportunity for your child to talk about how the cat might be feeling. Talk about all the things the dog does to try to help keep cat company. Children love to make "forts" from furniture and blankets and play inside the fort with their family.

Honk Honk Beep Beep Putter Put by Rukhsana Khan

This story introduces children to another country, Pakistan, where a young boy, Ibraheem goes with his grandfather, Baba, in his rickshaw and travels the roads in a busy city. The child learns that the road belongs to everyone and how drivers share the road to make certain no one or thing gets hurt.