

# PRIMARY READING TIPS



## Supporting your child

Reading aloud each day is one of the most meaningful ways to support your child's developing language and early literacy skills. In the Montessori Primary years, children move naturally from listening to stories, to recognizing sounds and symbols, to becoming emergent readers. Regular, joyful exposure to books helps build vocabulary, concentration, and comprehension long before children begin decoding words on their own.

- Keep reading moments short, warm, and predictable
- Choose books with clear images, rich yet accessible language, and simple storylines.
- As your child grows, invite them to participate—turning pages, identifying sounds or familiar words, or helping tell the story.
- Above all, prioritize a positive experience: following your child's interests, reading without pressure, and nurturing a genuine love of books that lays the foundation for confident reading in the years to come.

### Create a Special Reading Space



Create a cozy, simple invitation to read with a soft, beautiful space that your child can access independently.

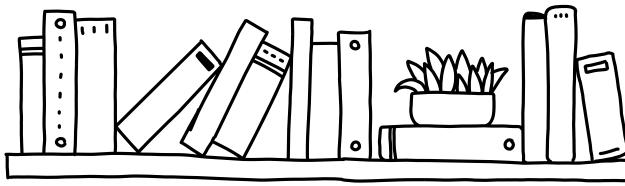
Provide a small basket or shelf with 8-10 books that you can rotate to maintain interest. Help your child explore their interests by providing a variety of fiction, non-fiction, and even poetry.

Encourage your child to care for and respect their books by turning pages gently and returning them to their basket or shelf.



### How to Find Good Books

- **Visit the Library:** Take a trip to the local library and guide your child to topics you know they are interested in- (ex: magnets, dinosaurs, baby animals)
- **Choose Books that:**
  - have beautiful, clear images to ground children in reality
  - have rich, precise language to help expand vocabulary
  - embrace wordless pages to help support storytelling and sequencing
  - follow your child's interests which fuels intrinsic motivation



# SUGGESTED PRIMARY READING

**Don't know where to start? Here are some ideas.**

## **Realistic, Beautifully Illustrated Stories**

- Owl Babies, Martin Waddell: emotional reassurance, early problem/solution
- The Carrot Seed, Ruth Krauss: perseverance, sequencing, simple storyline
- Bear Snores On, Karma Wilson: rhythm and repetition with a warm narrative
- A Good Day, Kevin Henkes: emotional understanding and gentle conflict
- Knuffle Bunny, Mo Willems: relatable daily-life storytelling with humor
- The Little House, Virginia Lee Burton: continuity, change, and simple geography
- A Chair for My Mother, Vera B. Williams: community, saving, meaningful family story

## **Nature, Seasons, and Early Science Books**

- Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt, Kate Messner: rich observation, habitats
- Over and Under the Pond / Snow / Rainforest, Kate Messner: layered nonfiction perfect for shared reading
- From Seed to Plant, Gail Gibbons: botany concepts in child-friendly language
- Animals in Winter, Henrietta Bancroft: simple cause/effect in nature
- Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn (and seasonal companions), Kenard Pak: sensory-rich seasonal change

## **Early Literacy & Predictable Pattern Books**

- Brown Bear, Brown Bear, Bill Martin Jr.: repetition supports early reading
- Where Is the Green Sheep?, Mem Fox: rhyme and predictable phrasing
- The Napping House, Audrey Wood: cumulative sequencing
- If You Give a Mouse a Cookie, Laura Numeroff: cause-and-effect thinking
- Chicka Chicka Boom Boom (for letter exploration): alphabet rhythm

## **Books to Support Emerging Readers**

- Bob Books – Set 1 or 2: foundational decoding for early readers
- Miss Rhonda's Readers: sound sequences aligned with Montessori phonics
- Primary Phonics Storybooks: clean, decodable text with simple design
- Elephant & Piggie (read together or child-led): repetitive phrasing, humor, early sight-word support
- Flyleaf Publishing Books (Early Literacy): well-designed decodable stories with appealing illustrations

## **Wordless or Almost-Wordless Books**

- A Ball for Daisy, Chris Raschka: emotional storytelling without text
- Wave, Suzy Lee: interaction, narrative through images
- Flotsam (as a shared read), David Wiesner: encourages rich conversation
- Good Dog, Carl (for older Primary), Alexandra Day: visual sequencing and inference

## **Poetry and Language-Rich Texts**

- Read-Aloud Rhymes for the Very Young (selected poems), Jack Prelutsky: rhythm and language play
- Busy in the Garden, George Shannon: poetic nature-based text
- The Moon Sees You & Me, Katey Howes: lyrical language and calm tone

## **Thoughtful Nonfiction for Curious Primary Learners**

- National Geographic Kids Readers – Level 1 (selected): clear photos + simple facts
- Let's Read and Find Out – Level 1: early science topics with accuracy
- Neighborhood Animals / Nature Guides (various publishers): realistic depictions to match Montessori lessons
- My First Book of Maps, Catherine Barr (simple shared-reading concepts): beginning geography