

My Choice: Top 5 Favorite Children's Books to Use as Teaching Tools!

Use to teach your children specific concepts! ALL of these catch the child's attention and have interesting pictures to keep them listening and learning!

1. "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day!" By: Judith Viorst

* This book is great to teach the concept of "Patience" and "managing emotions or life's reality." In the story, the boy was not having a good day. Everything was going wrong or not his way. At the end, his mom told him the reality of it all "Some days are just like that." This is the underlying message we have to get across to our kids when they feel frustrated or upset. Help them manage their emotions, talking about them, and figuring out ways to make the best out of any situation. This book also is always great for us as moms to read when we feel like pulling our hair out some days too! I know for me, this was my favorite book as a child...and favorite still today. It is the truth; some days are just like that!

2. "I Went Walking" By: Sue Williams

3. "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see?" By: Bill Martin, Jr.

* These are BOTH GREAT picture, read-along books for kids. It lets them guess what animal is going to come up next while extending their higher-level thinking processes. It also has consistent story phrasing for them to catch on to the storyline and "read along" with you. Read-along text is great for beginning readers because it allows them to know what it says, without really actually having to "Read" the words on the page. A child can already expect the same phrasing from page to page. This allows for meaning to develop and recognition that words/letters exists.

4. "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom" By: Bill Martin, Jr.

* This book is all about the ABC's. It is fun, colorful pictures, and the story is read in a "song-like" fashion to catch the children's attention. It is easy for a preschooler to be able to catch on and read with you! It goes through all of the alphabet letters A-Z climbing up the tree, then back down from Z-A.

You can do a FUN EXTENSION ACTIVITY following after reading this book. Draw a tree on a white sheet of paper. Cut out colorful A-Z letters using colorful construction paper (trace with ABC stencils then cut out). Let child glue all of the letters all over the tree picture. Now they have their own ALPHABET TREE to refer back to. For older children, 4-5 years, have them tell their own ABC TREE story using their letters and tree drawing! Fun, while learning, mom and kid project!

5. "If you give a mouse a cookie" By: Laura Numeroff

* Great pictures, fun plot, and easy sequence of events to follow along for kids!!! It is always fun for a kid to hear a story, and try to guess what will happen next. That is exactly what this book provides for a child. Plus, they can make personal connections to this text. Drinking milk, needing a straw, cutting their hair, sweeping the floor after making a mess, reading a story, drawing a picture of their family, hanging their picture on the refrigerator, and best of all, getting to eat a COOKIE! All of these things are events that happen throughout the story. What better for a child to hear about a mouse asking/doing all of this, and a child knowing that it happens to them in their life, too? Making a connection to the book ~ what a great way for a child to read! Plus, this book is easy for mom to read with "emphasis and character" tone, voice, and phrasing. That makes it even more real and exciting for young ones!

ENJOY READING FRIENDS!

