



Picture-Book Detective

Notice picture-book details and use them to help your child tell the story.

Helps Your Child Grow



Emergent Literacy

Questions about the illustrations invite your child to observe, answer, and connect the pictures with real experience in order to understand the story.

Steps

- Before reading a picture book, look closely at the illustrations and invite your child to describe what they notice.
- On one page, ask a concrete question such as, “What is this?” or “What is in the wagon?”
- Follow their answer with a question about the action. If they say, “Pumpkins,” ask, “Who is pushing the pumpkin wagon?” or “Where are the pumpkins going?”
- Then ask about the larger story: “What happened here?” “What might happen next?” This helps connect individual pictures with the sequence of events.
- Link a picture or word to real experience: “Do you remember our trip to the zoo? Which animals did you see?”

Tips

- When your child comments on a page, acknowledge the idea and add one useful detail. If they say, “The puppy is barking,” you might respond, “Yes, the puppy is barking at the kitten.”
- If your child is unsure what else to say about a page, offer a focused prompt such as, “Who is helping the duckling find food?”

Observations

- Answers questions about the picture and describes what is happening
- Recalls an animal they have seen before while looking at a picture book