



## 2024 Childcan's DPIL Reading Guidelines for Children born in 2021

### **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. Read the book to yourself before reading it to your child so you can share any personal experience that relates to the story or any background information about the topic so that your child has more of a connection to the story.*

### **During Reading:**

*There are six important concepts to practice. Choose one or two each time you read.*

*Book Awareness: Point out the title and author and ask what they think the book will be about.*

*Word Awareness: Find rhyming words, names of people or animals, words connected to the topic of the book*

*Knowledge: Each book has a topic. Help your child to understand the topic by discussing the book's message or by sharing extra information about the topic.*

*Math Skills: Counting is one of the easiest ways to bring math to a story. Count items on the page. Some stories bring in math topics by using a clock, measuring something, talking about shapes, etc.*

*Story Line: As you go through the story, stop and ask questions about what just happened or why it happened.*

*Relating to the Storyline: Children need to relate to a story to remember it better. Ask them how they would have felt in the same situation or if they have ever done anything like that.*

### **After Reading:**

*Think of activities that repeat what was done in the story, or increase their knowledge of the topic by sharing information, or give them a chance to express what they learned or felt by drawing something. Many of the books stress colours, shapes and directional words. Find more examples around your home.*

*2024 DPIL Books for Children Born in 2021 - talk about values and character as well as issues such as fear, conflict, love and safety. Colours, letters, and numbers are common themes. Nursery rhymes or wordless books that allow you to build your own story along with your child, add to the fun of reading.*

*Below are some helpful guidelines to use when reading stories.*

### **Counting on Snow by Maxwell Newhouse**

Counting backwards from 10 is shown in this book. Talk about counting and say the numbers counting forwards and backwards from 10. Have your child count the animals on each page and predict what the next number will be before turning the page. Talk about the animals used in the pictures and how with each page, there is more and more snow falling, so it becomes more difficult to see the animal.

### **You're in Good Paws by Maureen Fergus**

- Point out the two kinds of hospitals side by side. Have your child guess where Leo will be taken by his parents
- Enjoy all the silly things that happen to Leo when he's being taken care of by animals.
- In the waiting room, what did the big long snake eat? Find other animals there and have your child figure out why they came to the hospital.
- What were the fun things that Leo enjoyed about his hospital visit?
- Where do you think Leo's Mother will take him when he goes to school?

### **King Mouse by Cary Fagan**

- Topics such as kings and queens and what they do can be explored with each reading.
- What kinds of things did the mouse ask of the other animals?
- Why wasn't the mouse happy when the snake found a crown?
- Why did the animals like being a queen or a king?
- How did the bear feel when he couldn't find a crown?
- How did the mouse show he was a good friend to the bear?

### **Carson Crosses Canada by Linda Bailey**

- Find names of places. (Tofino, Pacific Ocean, The Rockies, Lake Winnipeg, Niagara Falls, Atlantic Ocean) and notice that all the names start with an upper case letter.)
  - Have your child point out something of interest in each area.
  - Have your child predict what the surprise for Carson, the dog is.
  - Why did Annie and Carson travel across Canada to go to Newfoundland? (Annie's sister needed help because she was sick).
  - How do you feel when you are getting ready for a trip?
  - How do you feel when you are driving a long way in your car?
  - Which stop did they make that you found really interesting and would like to see?
  - What is your favourite food? What food did they have that you would like to try?
- Plan a short road trip, and have your child help suggest ideas to look for and stop to do.  
Plan a picnic meal for a backyard picnic and have your child help to make the food and pack it in a basket.

### **No No, Baby! by Anne Hunter**

Have your child point to the forest animals on the page and name the animals. Have your child point to the things the baby squirrel wanted to eat. Explain why the other animals didn't like that. Explain to your child that owls sleep in the day and fly about at night, to help explain why the owl told the baby squirrel to go away. Have your child guess how baby squirrel felt and how it showed when the baby squirrel went back to his own house in the tree. Help your child to understand what happened to make baby squirrel come out into the forest again.

### **The Secret Fawn by Kallie George**

Topics, such as being the smallest or youngest in your family can be discussed with each reading.

What did Sara, the older sister, and the parents see when they were hanging laundry on the clothesline? Why didn't the younger sister see it?

If older sisters get to stay up later, what might they see that the younger child doesn't see? (Shooting stars)

Why does the older sister get to pick the first apple? (She's taller and can reach)

How could the older sister help the younger sister be the first one to pick an apple? (The older, taller sister could hold her smaller sister up to reach the apple first.)

What is the area around their house like? (There's a pond, grass, trees, animals like birds, squirrels, neighbour's dog)

What does the little girl get to see that the rest of her family didn't see? (A fawn)

Show me how a little girl can say hello with her eyes and why that was a good idea. (Giving a smile makes your eyes brighter and bigger and being quiet and not saying anything makes the fawn feel safe. A noise would scare it off.)

How does the little girl feel about seeing a fawn?

### **My Lala by Thomas King & Charlene Chua**

-Enjoy all the rhyming words. Have your child point out the items in Lala's room that they can name.

### **Benny the Bananasaurus Rex by Sarabeth Holden**

Talk to your child about what a fruit is and list as many fruits as they can. Help them by describing the fruit they've had at home and see if they can name it. Talk to your child about what is their favourite fruit. In this story, Benny loves bananas. He eats them morning, noon, and night. He even rides a bike with a yellow banana seat. In fact, Benny has a secret, he hopes one day he will turn into a banana! And if there is one thing Benny knows, it's that with a little imagination anything is possible.

### **Big Bear Hug by Nicholas Oldland**

Talk to your child about all the things and people they like to hug. Have your child explain why they give hugs. Next have them list all the animals they can that live in forests. In this story, a huge bear is wandering through the forest - but wait a minute! Who's that he's hugging? A beaver? And a moose? And a bird? And a tree? Welcome to the world of Big Bear Hug, a contemporary fable about a bear who has an appetite for hugging everything in sight - even creatures that bears have been known to eat. One day, the benevolent bear meets up with a human. This human proceeds to do something the bear cannot understand: he raises his axe and begins to cut down a tree. Suddenly the bear doesn't feel like hugging anymore and must make a difficult decision on how to stop this destruction in his forest. The environmental message of Big Bear Hug is both funny and powerful, while simple enough to engage very young children and show them the awesome power of a hug.

### **We Adopted a Baby Chick by Lori Joy Smith**

Have your child identify all the pets in this story. Talk about how Albert, the sheep, feels about the new chick and why he might feel that way. Talk about the changes in animals as they grow.

### **Metis Like Me by Tasha Hilderman**

Whether or not you're Métis, there's so much to experience and learn about this amazing Indigenous culture — take a picture book journey into Métis crafts, music and cooking with friends who love to share.

Are you Métis like me? A group of children of Métis descent share and explore all the ways they celebrate and experience their heritage — enjoying traditional foods like bannock bread and Saskatoon berries; crafting with beads; sharing stories, dance, music and songs. Each child

shares a different way they enjoy honouring their backgrounds and weaving parts of the rich tapestry that makes up Métis culture. One child, though, has grown up disconnected from their history, and can't join in with the others in the same way. But they soon see it's never too late to learn, celebrate or become a part of a community in which Métis and non-Métis alike can discover the richness of an often-overlooked culture.

This rhythmic, jubilant book will encourage young readers of all backgrounds to celebrate their own heritage and learn more about Métis history, and contains an author's note, recipe and dictionary to further inspire.

**Raindrops to Rainbow by John Micklos Jr.**

A gentle rhyming picture book that shows how colour can be found all around us, whether there are raindrops falling or a bright rainbow high above.

Raindrops are falling outside, but there's still a world of colour to experience! Delightful rhymes and brilliant illustrations detail how a gloomy, rainy day might not actually be so gloomy after all when you get to spend time with Mom, Brown Bear, and the colours around you.