

Take a look at more picture books and toddlers

Toddler Reference Library

In Casey's classroom, the toddlers have access to books in every learning center. Many of them are picture books, which the children especially enjoy because of the lively photographs or illustrations. In the manipulatives center, two boys consult a book featuring photographs of different styles of houses while building with Legos. In the blocks center there are books about cars and trucks. A group of children compares the pictures in a book as they play with their favorite toy models. In the art center, one child pages through an animal picture book before making an orange spider with play dough. The picture books are part of their daily routines. They give the children a chance to use books in both practical and enjoyable ways.



First Look at a New Book

Twenty-six-month-old Della loves playing with all the toys her home visitor, Breanne, brings on her visits. She especially enjoys the new books Breanne brings weekly. Della shows them to her mom immediately. "What've you got?" her mom asks, sitting down next to Della. "Breanne brought you a picture book. Let's see what's in it." They look at the pictures together, talking about what they see. Della's mom knows not to worry about reading the words yet. Instead, they focus on whatever captures Della's interest. She and Breanne ask Della questions as they look: What do you see? What's this little boy doing? Where do you think he's going? The three of them tell a story of their own using the pictures.

Making Books of Our Own

In Lesley's inclusive toddler classroom, she tries hard to make books accessible and enjoyable to all her children. One project her toddlers love is making their own books. She gives them magazines out of which to tear or cut pictures. Some children use adapted scissors. Lesley helps them glue their favorite pictures to sturdy construction paper. When the glue dries, she fastens their sheets together. She encourages the children to "read" their books. They read them back to her and to each other, using words or signs or a combination. Sometimes Lesley makes their books more "thematic," by providing only food magazines or only toy catalogs. Some of the children have already begun to "tell stories" with their handmade picture books. Others prefer naming their favorite objects on a page. Either way, they take pride in making their own books that they can "read."

