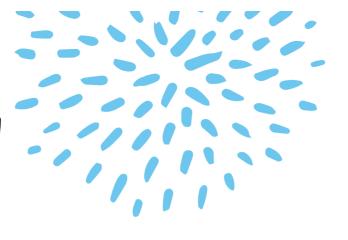
It is not enough to simply teach children to read: we have to give them something worth reading. Something that will stretch their imaginations -something that will help them make sense of their own lives and encourage them to reach out toward people whose lives are quite different from their own.

(Katherine Paterson, 2005).



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How do I choose quality books for my child?

The following questions may be helpful when choosing picture books for your child.

Is the book;

- imaginative? Will it trigger questions, feelings, conversations and wonderings?
- able to help your child hear and understand new words?

- about topics your child has interest in? Will it link to the child's life and experiences?
- able to open up new ideas or ways of thinking about others and their worlds?

 adding to the meaning of the story by sharing new ideas?

- interesting and engaging for you and your child?
 Do you think they will enjoy reading it again and again?
 - genuine? Is the language used real and rich? Does it engage your feelings?

playful?

Are the pictures:

rich and interesting?

(adapted from Ewing, Miller and Saxton, 2008, p.126)