

Turn Book Reading into a Conversation...

Plan Ahead

Building conversation into book reading involves using specific strategies to include ALL children. Plan ahead and jot down questions or ways the story relates to YOUR children.

Set the Stage for Conversation

Think of how the children are sitting...a small half circle encourages more child-to-child conversation than an informal grouping. Are they comfortable? Can everyone see the photos? Plan for enough time to read the story and talk about it.

Follow the Children's Lead

Children learn best when you follow their lead. Let the children set the pace with their questions, and comments and allow them to choose topics for further discussion. Your job is to "go with the flow" and encourage thought provoking questions to continue the conversation.

Observe, Wait, and Listen

This is sometimes more difficult than it seems. Observing children as you read might be looking at their facial expression, body language...what is fascinating to them? Watch for subtle communication. Waiting is the more powerful tool you can use to ensure the children participate. Before or after you turn the page, after you point to and comment on an illustration, after you read an interesting section or after you make a comment or ask a question...these are great opportunities for 'waiting'. Listening is of utmost importance. This means paying close attention, trying to understand exactly what the child is saying, making no assumptions and never interrupting.

www.hanen.org

For More Information Contact:

**Christina Manchester BA, BEd
Early Literacy Practitioner
(705) 945-8898 ext. 267
ssmels@childcarealgoma.ca**