

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

## CHOOSING CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Once children begin to show an interest in reading, it is important that books be available in the home. Selecting books from the library or bookstore can be a challenging and worthwhile task. In order to maintain children's interest the books must be appropriate for the age and reading level of the individual. For young children it is important that the book have interesting pictures and an understandable vocabulary. As children get older it is sometimes more difficult to find books that will be "just right." The following criteria may help parents in choosing children's books.

1. Determine your child's reading level. Talk to the teachers or librarian to evaluate the appropriate level.
2. Look through your child's reading textbook to determine the types of material being read.
3. Take your child to the library or bookstore with you. Allow your child to point out books of interest and discuss why those books were chosen.
4. Know your child's interest in books. Does your child enjoy suspense, humor, or adventure? Does your child like to read for information or strictly to be entertained?
5. Find out about the book. It should involve the child in a positive experience or message.
6. Spot check the book. Determine if it is written in a manner your child will understand with appropriate vocabulary.
7. Be open to suggestions from others. The librarian, other parents, or children can make recommendations of books that your child may enjoy.

## POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

All parents want to have the best possible relationship with their children. We can envision a family like some of those on television in the 60's or 70's where parents and children discuss everything, children totally agree with parents, and there is never a discipline problem. That perfect relationship sounds almost too good to be true, but it is possible for parents to improve the relationship with children. Use the following guidelines to help build a more positive relationship with your children.

1. Listen to your child without interrupting or correcting.
2. Treat your child with respect.
3. Share your feelings with your child.
4. Treat your children with equal affection.
5. Make you child's friends welcome in your home.
6. Avoid conflict when at all possible.
7. Find some mutually interesting activities to share.
8. Do not automatically say "No."
9. Discipline firmly and consistently.
10. Establish realistic rules and limits.
11. Find ways to encourage your child.
12. Never lie to your child.
13. Answer your child's questions openly and honestly.
14. Concentrate on your child's good points.
15. Take your child seriously.

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***"If you visualize failure, you tend to create the conditions that produce failure."  
Norman Vincent Peale***