

WORD WALL

Read to Me!

FEBRUARY

Exploring books is a great way to help children grow their vocabularies! Below are words that your child will be hearing through stories this month that might be new. You can support your child's understanding of these new words by using them at home! Or if you hear your child using them, playfully ask "What an interesting word! What does it mean?"

- TREASURE
- STURDY
- RHYMING
- PORRIDGE
- CARGO SHIP
- COUNTRY
- MUCK
- SADDLE
- DISASTROUS

Attitudes Matter

Every child needs a caring adult to unlock the world of learning and show that child the power of reading. However, before we can positively influence our children's view of learning, we must consider our own attitude.

Ask yourself the following questions to help ensure that you're making reading with your preschooler playful and positive. You may also want to keep track for one week of the positive and negative messages you send to children in your life, especially

about their reading skills and habits, as well as their behavior in general. In advance, Brainstorm positive messages you can express, and use them. For example, "What a helper!" or "I like your drawing!".

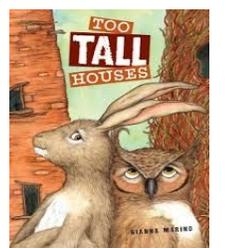
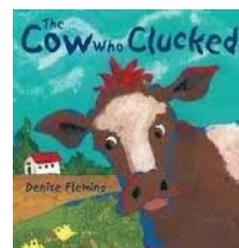
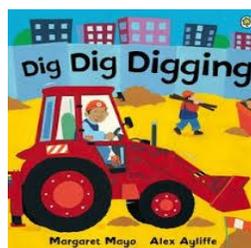
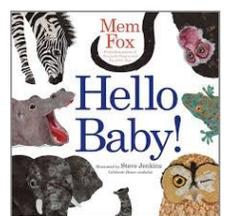
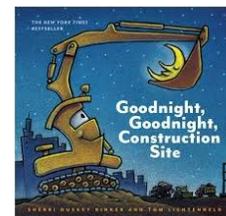
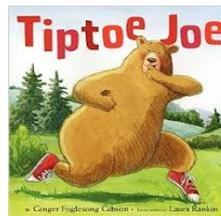
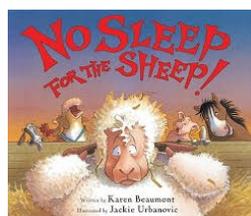
- How do I feel about my own reading habits and read-aloud skills?
- How would others describe my attitude about reading and books?
- What, if anything, keeps me from reading to my child daily?
- What, if anything, keeps me from offering easy access to

terrific books at home?

- Do we make time to talk about a book, particularly before and after reading a book?
- Do I usually choose only books that feature characters of my child's gender? (So called boy or girl books?)
- Do we read books that include characters of various cultures?
- When's the last time we read a book that builds empathy with and appreciation for someone with a disability?

What we're reading this month!

Below are the books that volunteers will share with your child this month. Ask your child's teacher which day of the week volunteers visit, and on that day, have your child point out the cover of books read aloud! You can also encourage your child to point out his favorites to the librarian at your local library!



February is Love Your Library Month!



Using our libraries is the best possible way to show how much we love them—so pay a visit during the month of February! Libraries offer books, movies, music, and planned activities for patrons of all ages! And don't forget that public library cards are free!

Visit the library in your neighborhood to see what special events they have planned for Love your Library month, and get plugged into the great resources offered there!

St. Valentine's Day: "I love you because..."

Surprise someone with a homemade love note! Ask your child, "Why do you love Daddy?" Write her responses on a sheet of plain or construction paper, and have your child decorate it with crayons or markers. Place the "love note" as a surprise in Dad's lunch the next

day! Try the same with other relatives!

Another idea is to ask your child, "who loves you?" and write down each name, then read her the list when she is finished. Top the list with the title, "Look Who Loves (child's name)" and let her deco-

rate it with markers or stickers. Stick it on the refrigerator or on her bedroom wall to remind her how much she is loved.



"There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world.

Love of books is the best of all."

-Jaqueline Kennedy

Tell Me a Story

Children can be authors too! Help your child expand their imagination by encouraging him to tell stories! Put five or six various household objects into a brown paper bag or pillow case, such as keys, a purse, stuffed animals, a book and so on. Remove each item from the bag,

one at a time, and create a story by adding one sentence for each item as it is removed: "once upon a time there was a little white kitten named Angel. Angel just loved to read books, especially books about cookies.

See how many different stories you can imagine with the same five

objects! Take turns telling stories or create a story together!

Source: The Preschooler's Busy Book by Trish Kuffner. 1998