

Shared Reading Conversation Starters™ for Infants & Toddlers

Ask questions while looking at pictures. "What do you see?" Answer for the baby so they can hear a response. "There is a dog standing by a tree!"



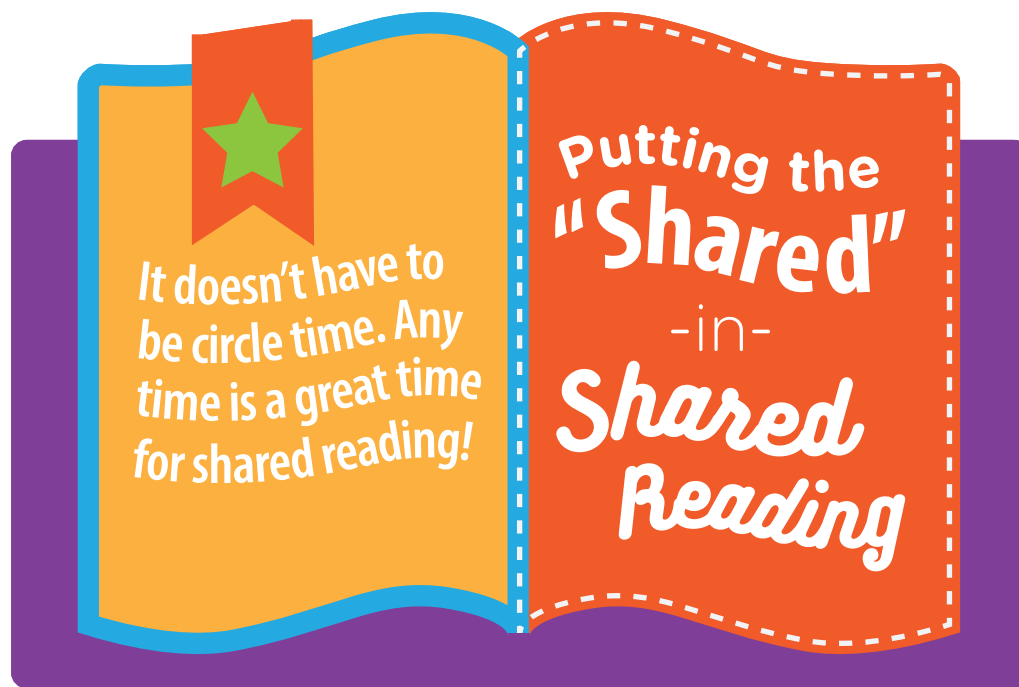
When the child points, **name the picture.**
Challenge: describe it, too!

#2: Comment on what they're doing or looking at.

Build to open-ended questions such as, "What do you think will happen next?"

#3: Name things that they're interested in.

Point out objects, animals, and actions that are meaningful to the child. "That boy is fishing. When we go outside, let's play a game and pretend we're fishing."



If the child doesn't want to share a book right now, try again later in the day.



Use silly voices for some characters. Add sound effects.

#12: Follow their lead, do what interests them.

Young children often want to read the same book many times. Let them!



#14: Be silly! Relax and have fun!

You don't have to read every word of a story — it's ok if you don't even finish the book! Just talking about the pictures is a great learning experience for the child.

Shared Reading Conversation Starters™ for Preschoolers

Ask children to make predictions based on words or illustrations. "What do you think will happen next?"



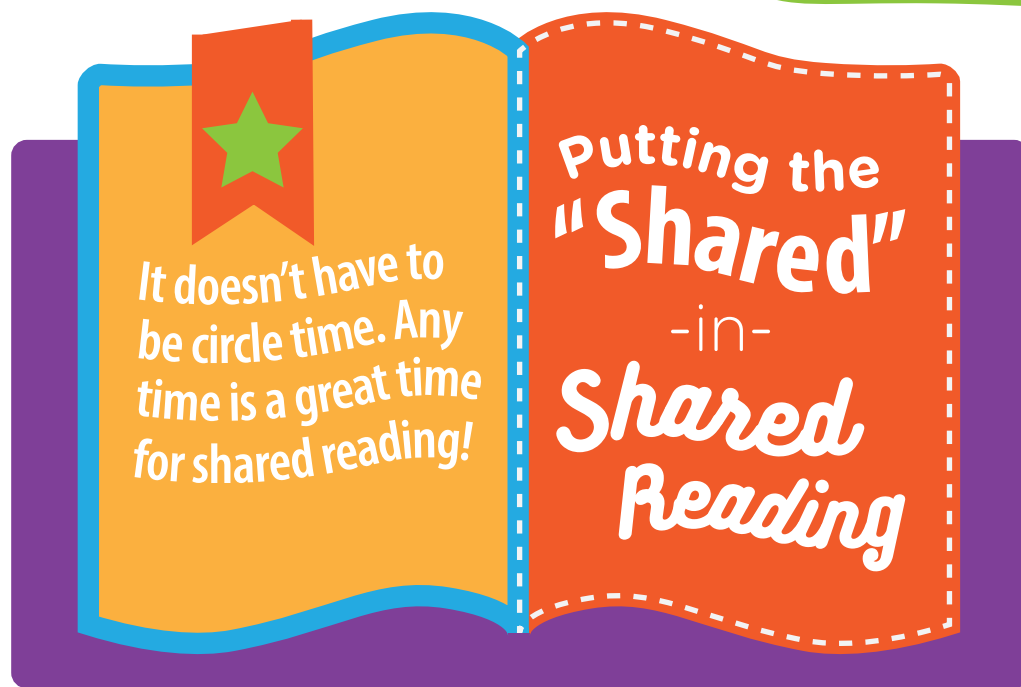
Ask open-ended questions to help children connect with the story. "How do you think the character is feeling right now?" "Why do you think that happened?" "What would you do next?"

#2: Comment on what they're doing or looking at.

Point out and name objects, animals, colors, or shapes in the story illustrations. Ask children to describe what they see.

#3: Name things that they're interested in.

Build vocabulary by talking about interesting illustrations or text. "Look at that red ladybug! Do you see the ladybug's wings? Can you think of anything else that has wings?"



Have a child retell their favorite book to you. Let the child take the lead on when to turn pages and what words to "read" aloud.



When reading about an emotion, ask the child to make a facial expression to match it! "Look at the happy baby. What do you look like when you are happy?"

#12: Follow their lead, do what interests them.

Encourage children to choose books on subjects they want to learn more about. If a book is too long to read every word, talk about the pictures!



#9 Make faces, use gestures.

Use different voices, sound effects and funny faces as you read out loud! Expressions help children understand and identify emotions in a story — especially if it is new to them!