

# Baby Sitting Is

## CHOOSING BOOKS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

*Books for young children that are chosen appropriately and used at the appropriate stage of development can help the child learn and grow in many ways. Books can help recreate for the child the world that he knows, and help him to understand and enjoy it more fully. Books can introduce new thoughts, experiences, information, and unfamiliar events to the child, and expose them to a rich and varied use of language. Books can enrich the creative capacities of the child, as well as provide exposure to peoples, places, and things that the child may not in reality be able to see or have personal contact with.*

*Books that are most useful to the young child should be written in grammatically correct language, fairly simple, and have easily understood illustrations that clarify and expand the text.*

## BASIC NEEDS OF A CHILD, WHICH BOOKS MAY HELP HIM ACHIEVE, INCLUDE:

- The need for physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual security
- The need to belong, to be a part of a group
- The need to love and to be loved
- The need to achieve, to do, or be someone worthy of respect
- The need to play, to manipulate, touch, compare, feel, lift, and learn
- The need for aesthetic satisfaction
- The need to satisfy natural curiosity

## DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF A WELL-WRITTEN STORY:

- Gets into the story quickly, avoids lengthy stage-setting
- Adequate theme
- Lively plot
- Memorable characters
- Distinctive style

## WHAT DOES A CHILD DEMAND OF ILLUSTRATIONS:

- The child begins as a stern literalist, demanding illustrations that are obviously truthful interpretations of the real world.
- The child, being literal, also wants the pictures to be meaningful interpretations of the text and synchronized with the text.
- Children are very fond of action in pictures.

**IN CHOOSING BOOKS, THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS ARE HELPFUL:**

- Choose books that are right for the child's present stage of development. The child should enjoy the book. Two-year-olds enjoy pictures of animals, children, and familiar objects; simple stories of daily routine; animal sounds; and names of familiar objects. Three-year-olds enjoy actual stories with a simple plot and interesting characters; four- and five-year-olds enjoy stories that are a little longer, with a more definite plot and wider range of subject matter.
- For preschool children, select books with simple plots that show real activities of people and animals. Children prefer stories full of action that relate to their own experience.
- Check the physical aspects of a book. Children under six often treat books roughly. Therefore, the book should have sturdy covers and firm stitching. The size should not be too big and heavy for a child to enjoy. The size and spacing of the type should make it easy to read.

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