

Environment: Books

Building a love of reading from an early age by being strategic about how you place and use books.

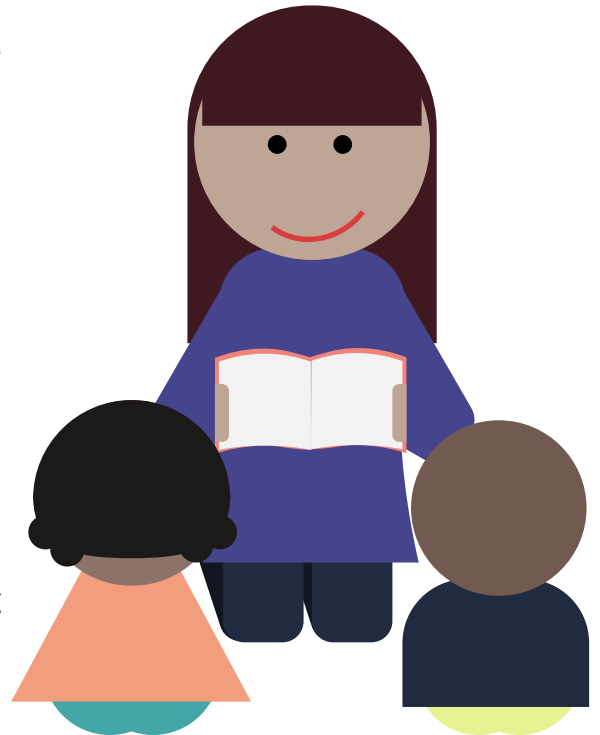
Display books so children can access them independently and request favorites.

Create a cozy, quiet book reading area to encourage time with books. Add pillows, blankets, and stuffed animals to make it a cozy, inviting area.

Have books available for children to look at on their own throughout the day. Place books on low shelves that children can reach independently.

Let infants play with books, chew on them, or bang them.

Include a variety of books, with some that are repetitive and predictable (e.g., "Brown Bear, Brown Bear"). When children learn what to expect next, they may be more likely to participate in book activities.



Environment

Organize and plan
to promote
communication &
interaction



Plan to have book time every day.

Structure book time so it is a time to practice communication. Give choices about the books you will look at. Ask open-ended questions about the characters, the story, and the pictures. Label what you see in the pictures. Encourage discussion and turn-taking. Book time should be engaging, and not just "listening" time.