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Early Reading

Dialogic Reading: Getting the Most out of **Picture Books**

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story time and out comes their favorite book. While your instinct might be to reach for a new book, there are actually so many benefits to reading your child's favorite story over and over again! The trick to rereading a picture book is to make it interactive.

You've just cozied up with your child for another session of

Children generally learn best through social interactions where they engage with a partner (you!). A trusted method

for reading picture books, known as dialogic reading (Whitehurst et al., 1988), turns your child into an active participant in understanding the story rather than a passive listener. This method is well known for boosting oral language skills, such as vocabulary and comprehension, among early readers of various abilities and ages. How does dialogic reading work?

opportunity to engage your child in conversation. The key technique for doing so is described in the PEER sequence,

Dialogic reading views each page of the story as an

which represents a short interaction between an adult and a child. Let's take a page from Noggin's original interactive book, The Princess the Dragon, and the...Dentist?!, as an example of how you might implement the PEER sequence. On one page, Princess Zooli is shown cleaning plaque from a dragon's mouth! **Prompt** the child to to say something about the story

• You might say, "What's this?" as you point to a dragon

tooth Evaluate the child's response, acknowledging what they said

and giving feedback • Your child might say "tooth," which you evaluate: "That's right! It's a tooth!"

• You can expand by saying, "This one is a dragon tooth!"

Expand on the child's response by rephrasing it or adding to

Repeat the original prompt to see if the child picked up new information from the expand step

You end with "So, what is this?" as you point to the

dragon tooth Don't forget to praise your child at the end for a job well

it

done.

Wh- prompts include who, what, when, where, and how questions. You can use these types of questions to ask your

answered with one word, like the example above: "What's this?" Completion prompts start the sentence and give your child the chance to add the last word - "Zooli put her baby tooth under her___". These prompts work well once your child is

familiar with the story and are especially good for books that

have repetitive language like rhyming books.

Open-ended questions encourage your child to really flex their oral language skills. These questions should be about the illustration, but don't have a single word response. They can be as broad as "what is happening in the picture?" or as

what they remember about the story. Once you've read the book a few times, try asking your child what happens on a specific page or even "what' happens next?". Distancing: These questions relate parts of the story or

Additional Tips Follow your child's lead. Ask questions about words or

details that your child is particularly interested in.

2. A single interaction on a page is good enough. It can be

fairly short or it can become a long conversation. Just go

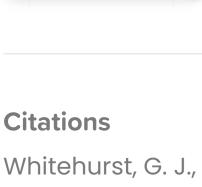
with it. Start with simpler Wh- and completion questions and

- already know and build comprehension for ones they don't know yet. Finishing the book isn't all that important. Getting
- 6. You can read less of a story as you reread it more and **more.** Instead, ask your child more questions that get them to tell you the story.
- Check out Noggin's original interactive book, The Princess the

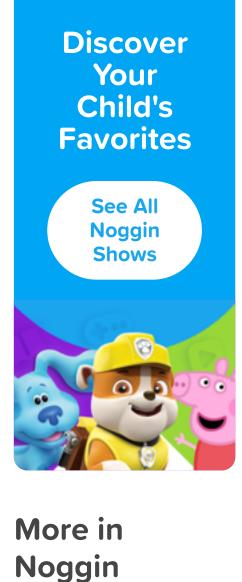
Dragon, and the...Dentist?!, for a fun story with plenty of

dialogic reading prompt examples that you can use with

your child. Read The Princess, the Dragon, and the...Dentist?! in Noggin!

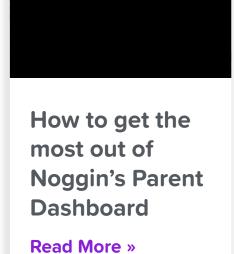


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Using Prompts You'll notice that the short interaction starts with a question. Here are 5 types of prompts which you can use: child about a detail in the illustration. These work great for focusing on new vocabulary words because they can be

specific as "What's wrong with the dragon's teeth?"

Recall prompts are great for letting your child show you

vocabulary words to your child's life. You might ask your child how they clean their teeth or if they remember their last

visit to the dentist. These questions help relate the story to

the real world.

- work your way up to more complex open-ended, recall, and distancing prompts.
- Use prompts to expand on words your child might
- caught up in talking with your child about the story is way more important than getting through it.
- are so many unique words, fun details, and interesting elements in picture books that you can ask about.

7. **Come up with new questions** during each reading. There

Whitehurst, G. J., Falco, F. L., Lonigan, C. J., Fischel, J. E., DeBaryshe, B. D., Valdez-Menchaca, M. C., & Caulfield, M. (1988). Accelerating language development through picture

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