

Why read to children?

- Enhance their literacy opportunities
- Immerse children in quality literature
- Model fluent, expressive reading
- Improve children's listening skills and vocabulary
- Expand children's background knowledge, facilitate understanding of story structure, and expand thinking skills and imagination.
- Instill the love of reading in them even before they can read for themselves, and
- Prepare them for kindergarten

Kindergarten readiness is key!

- The single biggest indicator for academic success in kindergarten is the number of words in a child’s vocabulary.
 - Children from low-income families do not develop (on average) the same vocabulary as their peers in middle-income families. One study showed that by age three, children from middle-income families know about 1,100 words, while children in low-income families know about 525 words or less.*
- Children who learn to read well at an early age will not only read more independently, but also achieve more in math, social studies and science; and are more likely to graduate high school and pursue higher education.
 - A long-term study of Michigan’s Perry Preschool found that at-risk children who did not participate in high-quality early education programs were five times more likely to be chronic offenders by age 27 than children who did attend.

What is “Kindergarten Readiness”?

Print and letters



When a child:

- Knows the difference between words and pictures
- Recognizes print in places like signs, television, and boxes
- Understands that writing has different purposes (for example , signs tell where something is located, list can be used for grocery shopping)
- Knows that each letter in the alphabet has a name
- Can name a least 10 letters in the alphabet, especially those in own name
- “Writes”, or scribbles, messages

Snow,C.E., et. (1998)

What is “Kindergarten Readiness”?

Spoken Language

When a child:

- Understands and follows oral (or spoken) directions
- Uses new words and longer sentences when she/he speaks
- Recognizes the beginning sounds of words and sounds that rhyme
- Listens carefully when books are read aloud



What is “Kindergarten Readiness”?

Reading

When a child:

- Shows interest in books and reading
- Might try to read, calling attention to self and showing pride
- Can follow the series of events in some stories
- Can connect what happens in books to life experiences
- Asks questions and makes comments that show understanding of the book being read



Before Reading:

- Select book. Pre-read and think about how to introduce it to your child/the children, what to explain (Vocabulary, expressions, etc.)

During Reading:

- Use expression, check understanding and encourage participation.

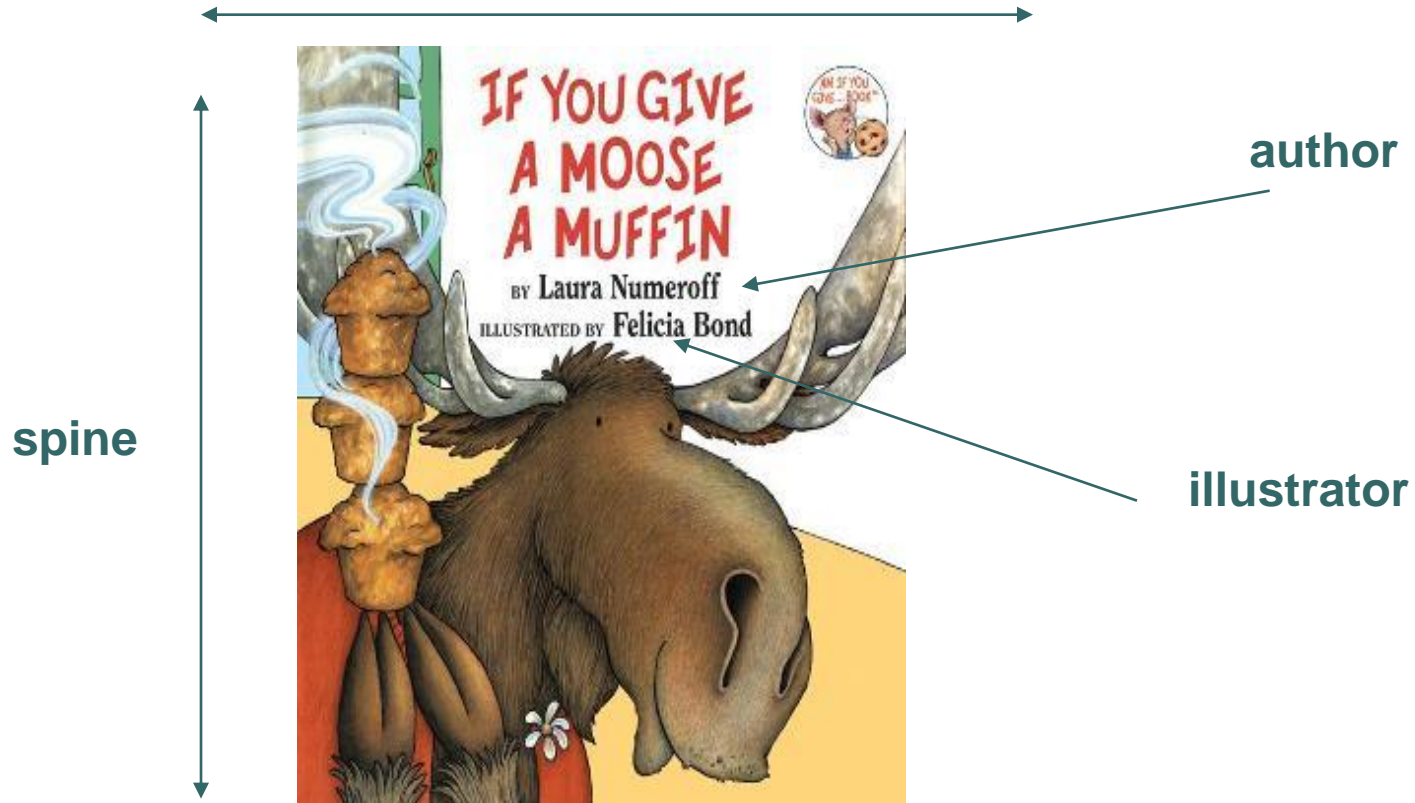
After Reading:

- Draw out a personal connection, extend experience by acting out the character roles

- Let the children pretend to read parts of the book when you read together.
- Talk with the children about stories and make connections to things that happen in your own lives.
- Help the children hear words that rhyme (like hop, stop, and mop)
- Talk about the letters of the alphabet and notice them in books like “d” for dog.

When you read talk about....

cover



When you read, do the “return sweep”...

move your finger to show the left to right progression of the words

