

Smart idea 7

Reading to children

“Reading to children ... just feels to me like one of the most natural and worthwhile things you can do and the benefits may last ... for all of a lifetime.” Sam McBratney

It is important to choose books that are appealing to the child to foster a life-long love of books. These books should be rich in age-appropriate illustrations and contain repetitive text, including rhythm and

rhyme. They should engage the child in imaginative and real-life story telling.

Sharing a story with your child should be a relaxing, fun-filled and engaging experience that allows for the development of the imagination and the excitement of reading. The following list contains books recommended for 3–5 year olds.

Pumpkin Soup by Helen Cooper: *friendship and sharing*

Possum Magic by Mem Fox[†]: *Australian*

Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak: *fantasy*

Are you my Mother? by PD Eastman[†]: *repetitive language*

Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy by Lynley Dodd[†]: *rhyming language*

Magic Beach by Alison Lester[†]: *imagination/real life*

Who Sank the Boat? by Pamela Allen[†]: *rhythm and rhyme*

Harry the Dirty Dog by Gene Zion and Margaret Bloy Graham[†]: *humorous*

What Am I? by Kim Dale: *rhyming language*

Can You Sleep Little Bear? by Martin Waddell and Barbara Firth[†]: *relationships and love*

Tikki Tikki Tembo retold by Arlene Mosel and Blair Lent: *rhythm and rhyme*

John Brown, Rose and the Midnight Cat by Jenny Wagner and Ron Brooks[†]: *friendship and acceptance*

We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury: *interactive*

[†] denotes that other titles are available from this author