

BOOK CENTER

Through Books, a child...

- Learns to problem solve.
- Develops an understanding of how to live and work with others.
- Understands, identifies, and responds to emotional situations.
- Strengthens listening skills.
- Grows in language and vocabulary.



Characteristics of Good Books

- A simple, well-written storyline.
- Rhythmic or rhyming words.
- Repeated phrases that invite children to join in.
- Opportunities for children to name objects, answer questions, or repeat phrases.
- Real photographs and true-to-life illustrations.
- Short length suited for young attention spans.
- Realistic stories reflecting real-life situations.
- Stories that teach values and biblical truths.



TIPS FOR THE BOOK CENTER

- Sit at the child's level on the floor.
- Hold the book so the child can see the pages clearly.
- Encourage conversation about the story.
- Allow children to turn the pages.
- Personalize by adding a child's name in the story when appropriate.
- Respect children who want to look at books independently.
- Allow time for questions, picture exploration, and responses.
- For group time, use books large enough for everyone to see.
- Encourage children to act out stories in play.
- Allow younger children to flip through books in their own way.



Choose Books That:

- Can be read in 5 minutes or less (perfect for short attention spans).
- Are written in simple, clear language.
- Are durable (board books, laminated, or hardcovers for longevity).
- Have colorful, realistic, and engaging pictures.
- Create feelings of joy, security, and comfort.
- Include repetitive words or phrases to invite participation.
- Avoid confusing or overly complex fantasy themes.

When to Use Books:

- Daily routines – Circle time, transitions, rest/quiet time.
- Bible lessons – Age-appropriate stories, parables, seasonal focus.
- Worship & prayer – Songbooks, prayer books, illustrated Scripture.
- Learning & development – ABCs, numbers, creation, values.
- Thematic units – Creation, community helpers, friendship.
- Centers & play – Reading corner, dramatic play, art inspiration.
- Family connection – Take-home books, parent read-alouds.

• Adapted from *Teaching Preschoolers: First Steps Toward Faith* by Sanders & Bradberry, LifeWay Press, 2000, *Love, Laughter, and Learning* by Mahand & Van Brink, Convention Press, 1996

