Reading Recommendations for Kids Ages 3-5

Reserve these titles and more in our catalog.

Fix That Clock by Kurt Cyrus
Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site by Sherri Duskey & Tom Lichtenfeld
Roadwork by Sally Sutton
Someone Builds the Dream by Lisa Wheeler and Loren Long
Crane & Crane by Linda Joy Singleton

Library Learning
Tips and activities for preschoolers

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Building Vocabulary
Build It!

Building things can help your child learn basic spatial skills and practice fine motor skills, too. These are important building blocks for success in math and science. Get the most out of building play time:

- Set a challenge: Along with open-ended toy play, give your child an age-appropriate test. Can you make a block tower taller than yourself? Can you make a bridge that will hold your toy car? Can you build a house faster than I can?
- Make a fort: Help your child use blankets, chairs, sofa cushions, or anything else they’d like to make a space within your home.
- Build a toy house: Use cardboard, tape, and whatever you’ve got to create a house together for your child’s favorite doll or toy.

Literacy Skills: Vocabulary

Vocabulary is a key part of reading comprehension and fluency. Understanding what you’re reading helps with enjoyment, too. Here are some tips:

- Read many books and different types of books! Books use a different vocabulary than casual spoken conversation. Children who are regularly read to will hear a variety of new words.
- When reading together, don’t skip or substitute for a difficult word. Instead, ask your child if they know what it means. Take the time to explain the meaning of the word.
- Sing songs and practice nursery rhymes together.
- Talk about feelings and experiences. Having the vocabulary to express themselves will give your child confidence and security.

Vocabulary Activities

- Guessing Games: I Spy and Twenty Questions are great for building vocabulary and abstract thinking.
- Treasure Hunt: Hide a ‘treasure’ in your house and give your child descriptive clues as to where it might be.
- Make Believe: Let your child tell the story. Verbalizing their play will help your child develop oral language skills. Puppet shows, dress up, and playing with character toys are fun ways to learn.

Library Resource

YouTube

Check out Spokane Public Library’s YouTube channel! We upload storytimes and nursery rhymes for kids (and stuff for big kids and grownups, too).