

Good Dog, Carl

Primary Objectives

18a. Interacts during reading experiences, book conversations, and text reflections

Why It's Important

Children enjoy picture books, especially books about animals. Before they learn to read, they "practice" reading by telling a story as they look at the pictures. Looking at wordless books with your child will give him opportunities to put his thoughts into words as he interprets the pictures.

Materials

Book: *Good Dog, Carl* by Alexandra Day

What You Do

1. Introduce your child to the book. Explain that the book doesn't have words, but he can make up the story as he looks at the pictures.
2. Take your child through each page of the book, inviting him to talk about what he sees.
3. Ask questions that prompt your child to talk about what is happening in the pictures. *Where do you think Carl might be going? I wonder why Carl did that?*
4. Allow your child to talk about the book as much or as little as he likes. Listen and restate his ideas and responses as you go through the book together.
5. You can extend his language by adding information to your child's responses. *You're right. Carl is a big dog. He's a Rottweiler.*
6. Show your child where the book is kept so that he can choose to look at it later. Encourage him to retell the story to a friend or family member using the pictures.