



## TIPS FOR SELECTING BOOKS\*

### CHOOSING BOOKS

Whenever possible, children should guide their selection of books, but you can help by understanding the basics of book selection.

### CHILD-GUIDED BOOK SELECTION

Research shows that when children have ownership over their reading experiences by picking out books they enjoy, they have greater literacy success. Here are a few guidelines to help children choose books:

- Always let the child select their own books, even if they've already read them over and over.
- Research shows that familiar stories and characters, such as those from popular toys and movies, can help draw children into reading.
- Non-fiction books (history, how-to books, informational text) can excite children's interest and imaginations.
- A child's reading level may be different from their listening level, and it's okay for a child to choose books above or below their reading abilities.
- Children who are learning English as a second language benefit from reading books in their first language.
- If a child is having a hard time choosing a book, try suggesting some titles that may appeal to their interests.

### MIRROR BOOKS

Also known as culturally relevant books, mirror books allow readers to see images and stories that reflect their own lives. Finding their own culture and experiences in books helps children develop a positive sense of identity and self-esteem, and improves their reading comprehension and language skills.

### WINDOW BOOKS

Windows allow readers to see the lives of people with experiences different from book their own. A variety of books representing diverse cultures helps children to develop attitudes of openness around difference. A book can be both a mirror book for one child, and a window book for another!