Concept Books

Introduce and reinforce ideas on ABCs, numbers, shapes, colors, and feelings.

Provide a starting point for adult-child conversations.

Connect children’s real life experiences to abstract ideas like opposites.

Explore topics which interest children in an enjoyable way.

Remember

Some concept books, like *Inside Mouse, Outside Mouse*, share a story as well as focus on special words that describe the mouse’s location.

Others concept books do not have a story. Concept books which do not have a story do not need to be read from cover to cover. For example, a young child who has a short attention span may find an ABC book too long to hear in one sitting; you may want to look at only the letters in your child’s name.

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Using Concept Books with Young Children

- Label the concepts introduced by the text and pictures, using this “point and say” technique.
  POINT – Draw your child’s attention to the book by pointing to something on the page.
  SAY – Talk about the concepts in the picture together.
If your child is very young you may need to supply the label for the concept. For older children you can expand on what they say and remind the children when they might have used the concept themselves. Praise your child’s attempts to respond to the book’s concepts.

- Use your voice to emphasize the concepts in the book.

- Ask questions that repeat the concept that the book highlights. In the book, *Inside Mouse, Outside Mouse*, you could ask your child, “What do you think the mouse was thinking when he ran *in front* of the dog or *in front* of the squirrel?” This question draws attention to the location words used in the book.