




Prepared by  
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# The Gift of Reading

Beverly Weathington  
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# Reading to Your Child is so Important

Helps in the Development of:

- Listening skills
- Language development
- Vocabulary
- Comprehension
- Knowledge about the world
- Curiosity
- Ability to focus
- Promotes bonding

# Books and Babies

- Ask for books as shower, holiday and birthday gifts
- Stiff cardboard or cloth books – they will be tasted
- Large, colorful, simple pictures
- Simple, relatable content



# Reading to Babies

- Choose the right time
  - Quiet
  - Minimal distractions
  - Part of daily schedule
- Be interesting
  - Point
  - Gesture
  - Make Sounds
  - Sing
- Exploration
  - Textured books
  - Allow baby to handle the book
  - Recognize that baby may tear book
- Follow baby's cues
  - Keep story short
  - Baby may become distracted
  - Babies love to see you interested
  - Baby may fall asleep





# Books and Toddlers and Preschoolers

- More complex pictures and stories than baby books
- Familiar activities – going to zoo, childcare
- Topics that interest your child
- Characters that look like them
- Allow your child to help choose books
- A couple of books with flaps and tabs (short lived)

# Reading to Toddlers and Preschoolers

- Make the story exciting by changing voices, using sounds
- Engage child – ask questions, ask child to point
- Allow child to help turn pages
- Let the child read the story to you
- Expect young child to move around and become distracted
- Be prepared to negotiate how many books will be read
- Be prepared to read same story over and over



# Books are Not Just for Bedtime

- Car
- Grocery Store
- Doctor's Office
- Bath time ( plastic books)



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# Books and School-Aged Children

- Consider your child's reading level when choosing
- Choose chapter books
- Choose characters and adventures that interest your child
- Choose books with interesting illustrations
- Choose books that celebrate diversity

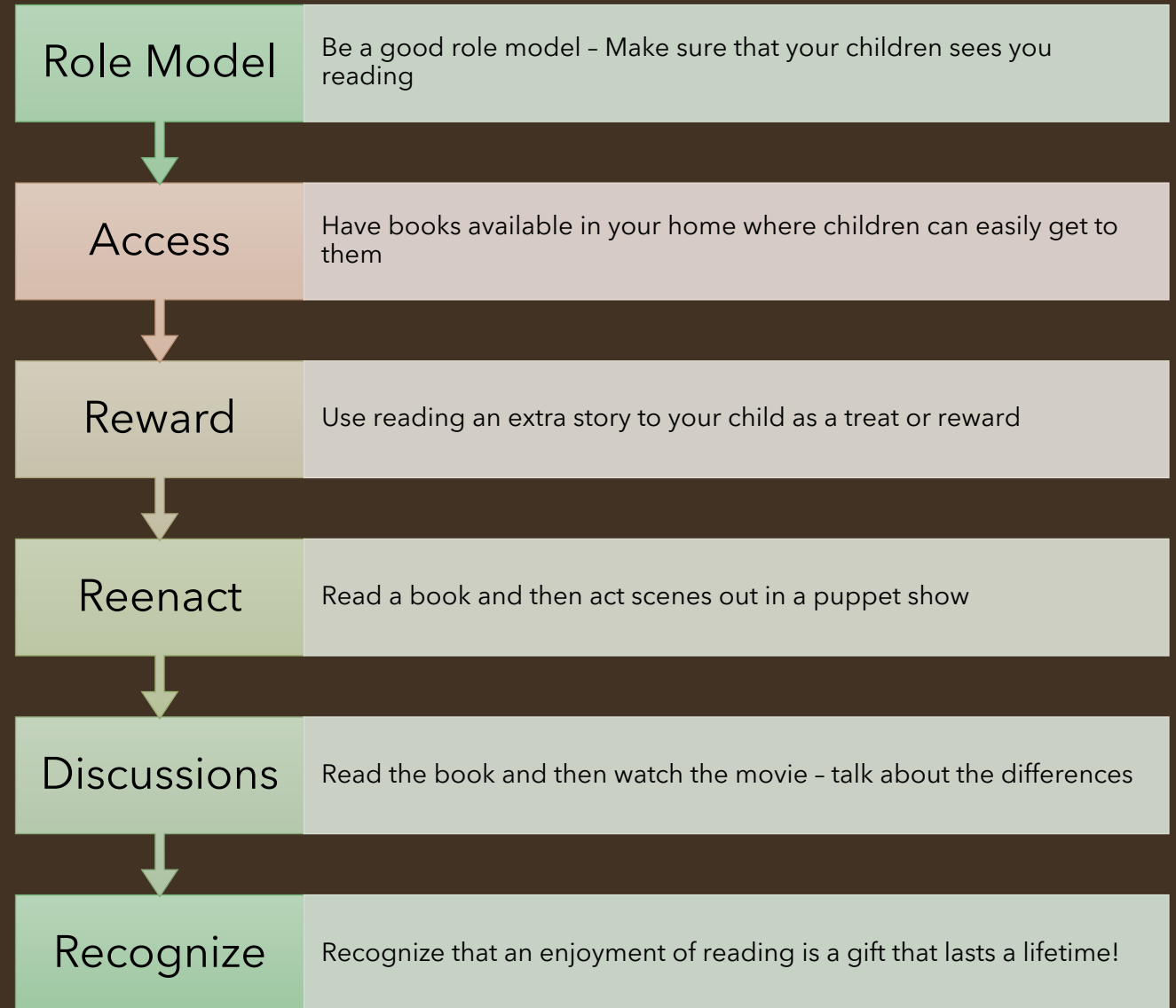


# Reading and School Aged Children



- School-aged children love to read and be read to!
- Reading is a great way to wind down
- Take turns reading pages
- Be kind and patient if your child is struggling
- Ask questions and pose different endings
- Let your shared time be one of enjoyment not evaluating or critiquing

# How to Increase your Families Enjoyment of Reading





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