Which Books to Choose?

There are so many wonderful children's books to choose from! However, it can be tricky to know which books might work best with which I'm Ready! strategies to support your child's learning. You don't necessarily need to find a book that lends itself to all the strategies at once but it is helpful to consider which opportunities a book might offer when choosing what to read.

Here are some things to think about to help you make good book choices whether you have a particular book in mind or are on the hunt for one. Remember, though, what's most important is to select books that build on your child's interest and will result in a fun, enjoyable reading experience for you and your child!

A good choice for a book where you can OWL, Follow Your Child’s Lead and Keep the Conversation Going to create a time to talk should:

- be about a topic that interests your child
- relate to your child’s previous or future experiences
- have clear, appealing illustrations

A good choice for a book where you can build your child’s vocabulary with SSTaRS (Stress, Show, Tell, Relate, Say It Again) to make new words sparkle should:

- include new words that would be unfamiliar to your child
- provide opportunities to add new words as you talk about the book
- have illustrations that show the meaning of new words
- possibly be an information book with step 3 vocabulary

A good choice for a book where you can highlight CSPAR to build your child's story understanding should:

- have a clear storyline with obvious characters, setting, problem, actions that resolve the problem and resolution
- have illustrations that clearly show what is happening in the story
- relate to your child’s knowledge and experiences
Which Books to Choose? (continued)

A good choice for a book where you can use the EE’s and PP’s to deepen your child’s understanding of the story should:

• provide opportunities for your child to think beyond what is in the written text
• provide opportunities for your child to share his opinions
• encourage your child to use her imagination
• possibly include information about a specific interest that your child has (not necessarily a storybook)

A good choice for a book where you can use POP to help your child understand how print works should:

• have print that is large enough for your child to easily see
• have the same text repeated on several pages
• have print in different sizes or colours, or print that is written in different direction
• possibly have speech balloons that show what the characters are saying
• possibly include a writing activity as part of the story

A good choice for a book where you can use Listen...and Find One Like It to build your child’s sound awareness should:

• include words that rhyme
• include interesting words that start with the same sound

A good choice for a book where you can use the Four S’s to increase your child’s letter-sound knowledge should:

• have examples of large, clear print in the text
• include large easy to see first letters for some of the words
• possibly be an alphabet book, with several written words that start with the same letter on one page

Title(s) of possible book(s):