

## ADVICE STATION

### BEGINNING READING

#### D WRITES

Do you have any ideas for teaching sight words? I teach in my preschool, three and four year olds. How do I begin? The kids are just beginning to get interested in words. We read all the time, but now I want them to read to me. Where do I begin?

#### JEAN REPLIES

You are correct, teaching sight words is a good way for children to learn beginning reading skills. Being able to read a few familiar words gives a child confidence that he is actually learning to read. Start with sight words they know, such as McDonald's, Cheerios, stop, Lego, etc. Put up pictures of each of these words and have your children tell you what each of them says.

Below are some simple book ideas that children can use for beginning reading.

**FAMILIAR WORD BOOKS** - Make books filled with pictures of items your children are familiar with; such as a bed, a car, a dog, a cat, a house, etc. Write the name of the object at the bottom of each page. Ask your children to read the book to you. You could also, have your children make up a sentence about each picture and tell it to you.

**"I LOVE BOOKS"** - Let your children make their own books. Have them draw a picture on each page of their book of something they like. Then go back through their books and write the phrase "I love pizza" (or whatever the picture on that page is about).

**CLASS PICTURE BOOK** - You could also give your children a book with the pictures and first names of each child in your class. This not only helps children recognize new words but it can help them learn the names of their fellow classmates.

**Dictated Stories** - Another idea for you is to have your children dictate short (1 or 2 sentence) stories. Write the stories on a piece of paper and later ask your children to read their stories back to you or your class.

**FARM SOUND BOOKS** - are another easy type of book for beginning readers to read. Make a book filled with familiar farm animals. At the bottom of each page write, "The \_\_\_\_ says, \_\_\_\_!" Example: If the picture on the page is a cow, the sentence at the bottom of the page would read, "The cow says, moo!"

**COLOR BOOKS** - are also popular for beginning readers. Make a book of simple objects. Then color each object a different color. Write the sentence "I see the \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_" at the bottom of each page. Example: "I see the red apple." Or "I see a blue balloon." Give the book to a child and have him read the book to you.

I hope these ideas help,

Jean Warren, Preschool Express