



Welcome to STAR

AT HOME

**A Project of The Ohio State University and
the University of Toledo**

STAR is a 30-week program that brings the benefits of high-quality storybook reading to preschool children



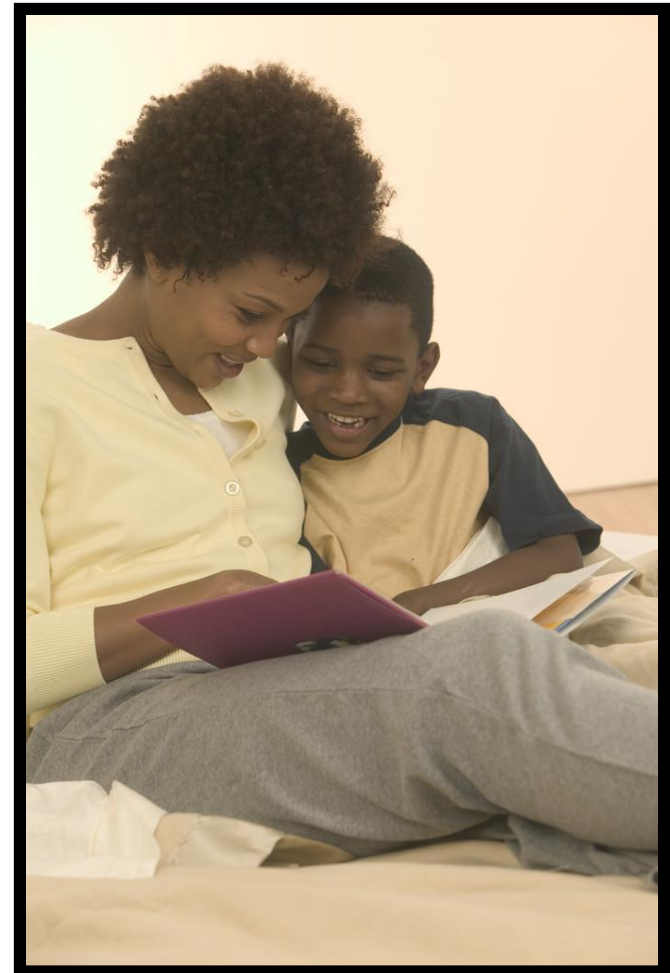
**Each week for 30 weeks, you will
read a great storybook with your
child...**

Book of the Week

**You read the book
aloud to your child
two times
during the same week**

Reading storybooks together is good for your child

- **It provides a time for bonding and cuddling**
- **It teaches your child about the world, providing information and entertainment**
- **It builds attention span and self-regulation**
- **It teaches new vocabulary words, rhymes, and sound patterns**
- **It models the concepts of beginning/middle/end and other important preschool skills**



Tips For Reading: Before You Read

- **Find a quiet and comfortable place**
- **Sit so that your child can see the words and pictures**
- **Look at the cover and read the title; talk about what the book might be about**
- **If possible, relate the topic to your child's own experiences and interests**

Tips For Reading: While You Read

- **Slow your pace a little so your child has time to understand each part of the story**
- **Read with expression; change your voice for slow or exciting times in the story and give different characters different voices**
- **Pause to allow children to look at the pages, ask questions, and make observations**
- **Encourage your child to predict what will happen next**
- **Explain new words and ideas in the story**

Tips For Reading: After You Read

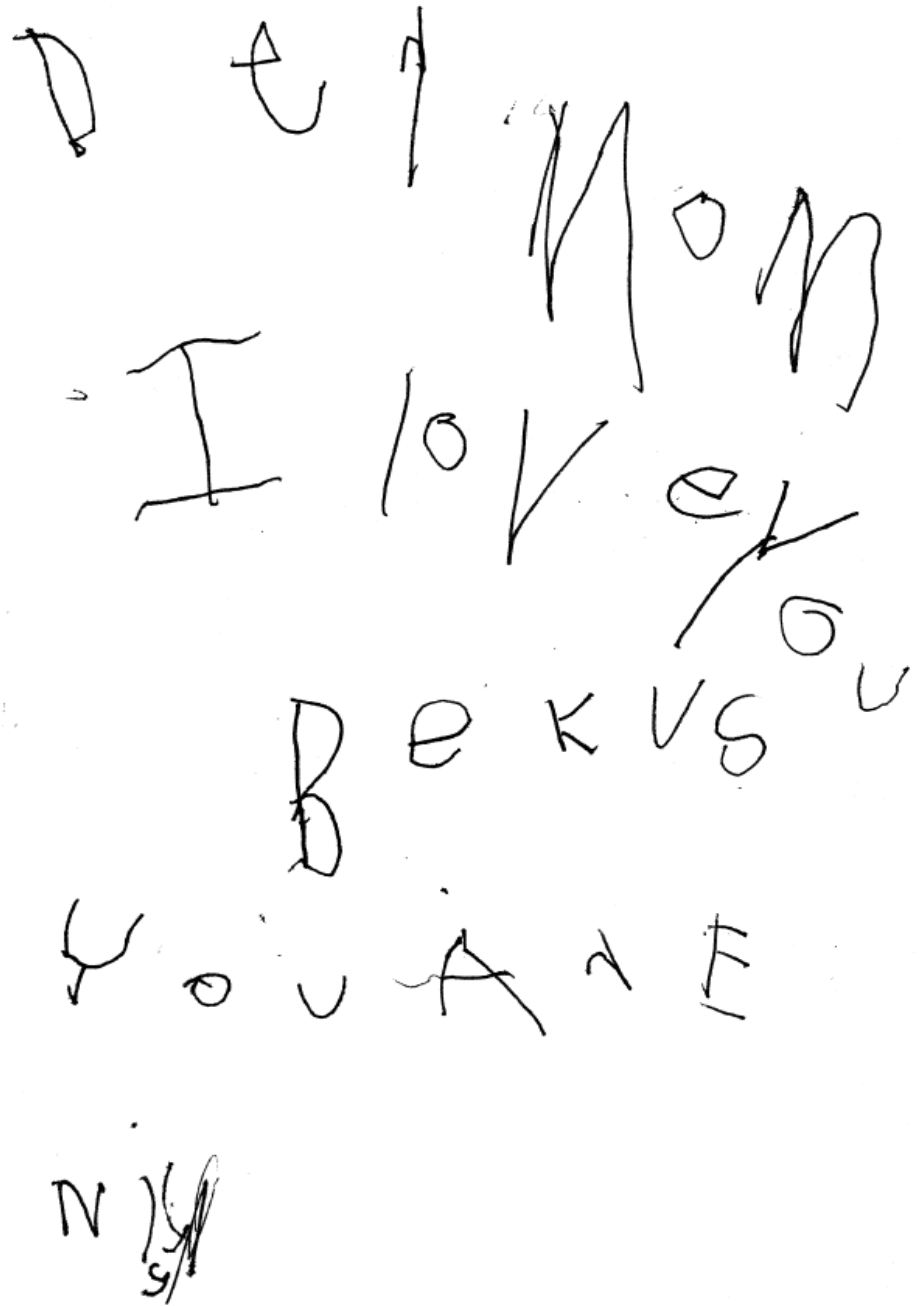
- **Discuss what your child liked or didn't like about the story**
- **Ask open-ended questions (not yes/no questions) to encourage your child to talk about his or her thoughts**
- **Compare the events of the story to your child's own experiences**

Calling Attention to Print

We Live in A World of Print

**Print =
letters
words
sentences
punctuation marks**

**Learning about print
is an important part of
the preschool years**



Each time you read a STAR book, please take a few minutes to talk to your child about print




- Does your child notice words and letters in places like these? If so, he or she is already thinking about print
- Understanding the basics of print is important to success in school
- Studies show that unless adults point out the print in storybooks, children will focus mostly on the pictures

A STAR card is available for download for each book

- Keep the STAR card handy as you read. It will help you and your child notice print and talk about it
- Two topics about print are provided for each book
- Each time you read the book, talk about each topic 1-3 times


Read *My First Day of School* two times during this week with your child. As you read, help your child to look at and talk about **print** by talking about these two topics:
(1) **Print All Around Us** and (2) **Role of Reading**



STAR
AT HOME
WEEK 1:
My First Day of School


Topic 1
Print All Around Us
Teach your child to notice words and letters on signs, labels, and everywhere!

Talk about this topic 1-3 times as you read the book. Here are some examples.



On this page of the book, you could **ask**:

There are words and letters at the bottom of this page. Can you show me words and letters somewhere else on the page? That's right! There are words and letters on the cereal box, calendar, and bread bag, just like at our home.



On this page of the book, you could **point** to the stop sign and **ask**:

*Can you read the word on this sign? That's right! It says **STOP**. You're a good reader! Do you know any letters in the word **STOP**?*

There are four kinds of **STAR topics**

1. Understanding
BOOKS
2. Understanding
that print has
MEANING
3. Understanding
alphabet
LETTERS
4. Understanding
WORDS



1. Understanding Books

These topics help children understand what a book is, what its parts are, and how it is used.

- **Title of Book**
(The title is the name of the book—it gives clues to what the book is about.)
- **Role of Author**
(The author is the one who writes the book.)
- **Top and Bottom of Page**
(We read from the top of the page to the bottom of the page.)
- **Page Order**
(We turn the pages in a book from front to back.)
- **Print Direction**
(We read from left to right.)



2. Understanding that Print has Meaning

These topics help children understand what reading is, and why and how people read.

- **Role of Print**
(The print in the book tells the story.)
- **Print All Around Us**
(Notice words and letters on signs, labels, and everywhere!)
- **Role of Reading**
(We read to find out what happens next, to find out what we want to know, and for fun.)



3. Understanding Alphabet Letters

These topics help children understand what letters are, what their names are, and how they are used.

- **Noticing Letters**
(Notice alphabet letters and understand that letters make up words.)
- **Naming Letters**
(Know the names of alphabet letters.)
- **Uppercase and Lowercase Letters**
(Letters come in two sizes—big and small.)



4. Understanding Words

These topics help children understand what words are and to recognize some common words.

- **Noticing Words**

(Notice words—a word is a group of letters that has a meaning.)

- **Letters vs. Words**

(Understand the difference between letters and words; count words and letters.)

- **Short Words vs. Long Words**

(Notice short words and longer words—some short words, such as *the*, are common.)

- **Identifying Words**

(Recognize common words, repeated words, and words that can be “figured out” from the pictures.)



You can call attention to print in four ways

- 1. Ask Questions About Print**
- 2. Make Comments About Print**
- 3. Point to Print**
- 4. Follow Print With Your Finger**

1. Ask Questions About Print

Watch Video Clip 1 Now

Examples:

- *What is the first letter in this word?*
- *Where should I start reading on this page?*
- *What does an author do?*
- *Which letter is an uppercase letter?*
- *Where is the top of the page?*

2. Make Comments About Print

Watch Video Clip 2 Now

Examples:

- *This is the letter B.*
- *The title of this book is “We’re Going on a Bear Hunt.”*
- *All these words are the same.*
- *Here is a really long word.*
- *This word says “Boo.”*

3. Point to Print

Watch Video Clip 3 Now

Examples:

- *Should I start reading here (point) or here (point)?*
- *Here is the letter E (point). That's in your name!*
- *This is the cow (point). This word (point) tells what the cow says.*
- *This (point) is a word I think you know.*
- *This is the title of the book (point).*

4. Follow Print With Your Finger

Watch Video Clip 4 Now

Run your index finger under the words you read to show:

- *That we read from left to right.*
- *That we read from the top of the page to the bottom.*
- *That we sweep down from the end of one line to the beginning of the next line.*
- *That the words on the page tell the story.*

If your child needs help with the topics...



- **Don't be afraid to challenge your child to learn new things that may be difficult at first. Provide plenty of support and encouragement. It's okay to help your child by explaining, giving examples, and providing the answers.**
- **Over time, your child will become more comfortable talking about print.**

**We hope you and your child
enjoy the STAR books and
reading these books together**



**The following Do's and
Don'ts will help your
child get the most from
each reading session.**

- **Do** place the STAR card inside each week's book. Keep the book handy for reading twice during the week.



- **Do** use the suggestions on the STAR card to call attention to each topic 1-3 times as you read.
- **Do** focus on the same topics (shown on the STAR card) each time you read a book.
- **Do** talk about print in different ways (questions, comments, pointing, following with your finger) to keep things interesting.

- **Don't** overwhelm your child with too much talk about print. Talk about each topic just 1-3 times during the story.

- **Don't** become frustrated when your child struggles to provide answers. Stay positive!

- **Don't** expect your child to master the concepts or to read many words well. Your child is building a foundation for later reading and writing.

- **Don't** make reading time rigid and adult-controlled. Let your child turn the pages and explore the book. Follow your child's lead---it's okay to just look at the pictures on some pages, or to take a break.

- **Don't** be afraid to challenge your child with new and difficult concepts. Instead, provide support as he or she reaches for understanding.