

Book choice is key for language learning



Most young children love picture books, but if the stories are filled with too many illustrations, it can slow down their language learning. When preschoolers see multiple pictures on a page, they may struggle to follow the story—possibly because they aren't sure where to look.

To maximize your child's language learning when reading together:

- **Seek out books** with a single picture per page. One splashy illustration is more likely to hold your child's attention.
- **Avoid too many** lift-the-flap books. These stories are fun, but they may actually hinder your child's word acquisition. The act of lifting the flaps and looking underneath distracts from the words on the page. Don't toss your child's favorite flaps, of



course! Just include plenty of regular books during story time, too.

- **Make the most** of multi-illustration stories. Point to the drawing that goes with whatever text you're reading at the moment. This will help your child connect the words to the correct illustration. And that, in turn, may bolster book smarts!