Making the Most of Storytime

"It is the talk that surrounds the story book reading that gives it power."

— National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) & International Reading Association

Reading aloud to young children is important, and HOW you share books can make a big difference. Research shows that following these read-aloud practices significantly improves the language skills of children who participate:

1. Have a conversation about a book

- Frequent conversations — back and forth exchanges
- Ask questions that require more than one-word answers
- Wait long enough for responses
- Be responsive to what the child says

2. Model advanced language

- Repeat what your child says and add more to it:
  1. *Provide new information*
  2. *Recast what they say with more advanced vocabulary*
  3. *Repeat what they say with correct grammar or word-use or a longer sentence*

3. Prompt critical thinking skills

- Ask how and why questions
- Ask children to explain their answers
- Give clues to get them to the right answer if possible

4. Intentionally build vocabulary

- Reread the same book often
- Stop and explain the meaning of one or two words
- Define words using words they already know
- Ask children to repeat the words to improve their memory of the sounds in the word

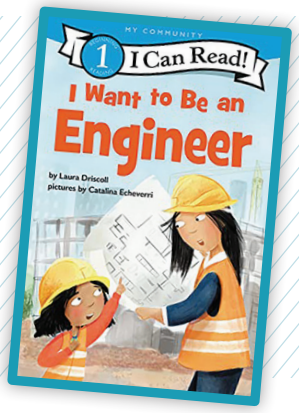
5. Teach and provide practice with social and emotional skills

- Everyone has something valuable to say and listen to (self-regulation)
- Listen to peers with eyes and ears (self-awareness)
- Building community (relationship skills)
  "So you and Jamari both take a bus to the grocery with your mommies."

preschool PROMISE

because the first 5 years matter

I Want to Be an Engineer by Laura Driscoll



Vocabulary possibilities:

engineer, rocks, aerospace, architect, structure, concrete, plumbing, electricity, cables, work, environment, mechanical

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PAGE	QUESTIONS
4-5	What do you think happens at an engineering school? Have you ever been to a new school? Tell me what you think happens at school.
6-7	What are some of your favorite things? Where could you go to learn more about your favorite things? What do you know about space and rockets?
8-9	Where do you think you could study robots? What do you think a robot dog can do?
10-11	What does it mean to be a problem solver? How do you think engineers solve problems? What tools do they use? Tell me about a time you solved a problem.
12-13	What do you think an architect does? Tell me about buildings. What do you know about making them? What does it take to design and build a building?
14-15	What kind of engineers do you think her mom works with? What kind of problems do you think they need to solve?
16-17	For what reason does a structure need to be strong and safe? What do you notice about the office? What sort of tools or safety equipment do you see?
18-19	What do you know about pipes? Have you seen pipes before? Where?
20-21	What do you know about wires? Cables? Electricity? For what reason would electricity in a building be important?
22-23	What does it mean to have a network? Who in a building might use planes or computers? What kind of building do you think they are creating?
24-25	What do you think a solar panel is used for? What other sorts of things do you think an environmental engineer does?
26-27	What machines can you name? What does a machine do?
28-29	Can you think of any other robots you've seen before? What do they do? For what reason do you think the mechanical engineer used a robot?
30-31	What kind of robots would you invent? Why do we need robots? Why do we need robotic engineers?