

## Reading Time Struggles

Does the thought of trying to wrangle your toddler to sit still while you read a story stress you out? Here are some tips to help you raise a happy reader!

- Let your child choose the book.
- Use silly voices or sounds. Let your child make animal sounds or say rhyming words.
- Allow your child to hold the book and turn the pages.
- Read to him in the car or while you are waiting somewhere.
- Carry a book with you in your diaper bag, purse or even on your e-book device.



**Time Limits:** Not all children can sit and listen to stories for long periods of time. Start small and work your way up. If your child is 2 years old, read for 2-3 minutes at a time. Once you see your child can sit without becoming distracted, add another minute to your reading time. By the time, your child is ready for kindergarten, he should be able to sit and listen for up to 15 minutes at a time.

**Ferst Readers**

**Impact/  
Photo  
Contest**



*Happy  
New year*

We hope 2021 has started off great for all of you - our parents, kids, donors, sponsors, and volunteers. 2020 is finally in the rear-view mirror!

Thank you for being part of the Ferst Readers family. May 2021 be healthy and happy for all!

From your friends at Ferst Readers of  
Muscogee County.



How has Ferst Readers impacted your child? Post to our social media pages (FB or IG) or email to [info@ferstreaders.org](mailto:info@ferstreaders.org) along with how Ferst Readers has impacted your child/family.

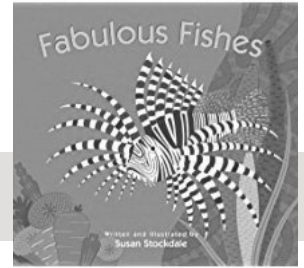
For a chance to win one of 5 prizes! Entries should be submitted by Mar 1, 2021.

**Community Partner**



## Fabulous Fishes

Author/Illustrator: Susan Stockdale  
Peachtree Publishers



**T** **Tune In:** as a “knowledgeable guide” or “interested follower.”

Engage in playful and loving interactions; get on the child’s level; establish eye contact; connect through touch, hugging, and cuddling; maintain a loving, joyful, engaging, and playful facial expression. Reread several times during the month.

**I** **Introduce the Book:** purpose for reading.

Introduce the story by pointing to the cover and saying, “*The name of our book is Fabulous Fishes. I am thinking this book will have different types of fish. Let’s read and find out.*”

**P** **Promote Language:** ways to build vocabulary.

Push in vocabulary by **Pointing** to pictures (**P**), **Acting** out the word (**A**), or **Telling** (**T**) what the word means. Repeat each time the word occurs in the story. Talk about how the characters think or feel.

Point to the pictures while reading words such as **striped, spiked, speckled, spotted, shiny, and spiny**. These are all adjectives, used to describe the different types of fish. While pointing to the fish and using the adjectives, you can also tell what the word means. For example, point to the spots on the fish while saying, “*There are spots on the fish so we call it a ‘spotted’ fish.*”

There are also action words which you can act out such as **hide, leap, flash, curled, ride and swim**.

This month while talking with your child, use lots of adjectives to describe different objects. For example, while cooking, you could say, “*I am going to cut up this big, red tomato for our salad.*”

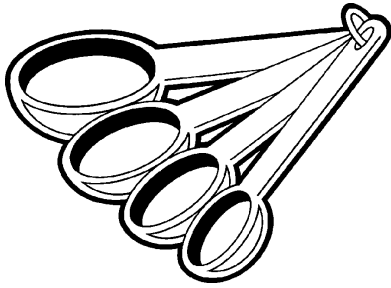
**S** **Summarize:** retell the events of the story.

After you finish reading, summarize the book by saying, “*We just read about different types of fish. Let’s look back and see what fishes are in the book.*” Go back through the book, choose one characteristic you want to focus on, such as color, eyes, tails, fins, and point them out to your child.

On the next page, there are some additional activities which you can do with your child.

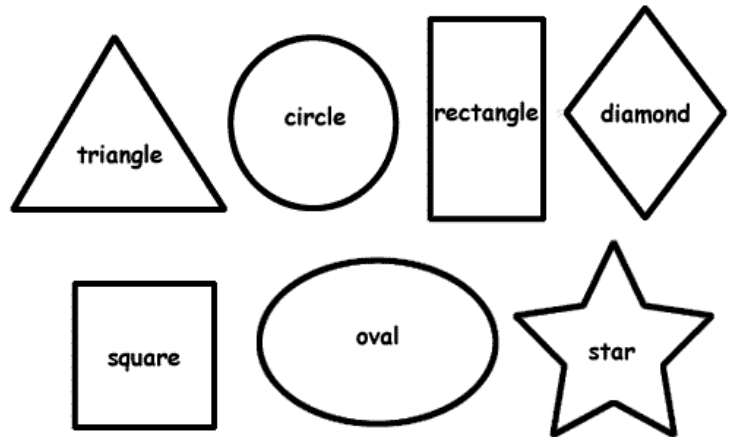
# Things to Do

Here are some suggested activities you and your toddler can enjoy in the kitchen.

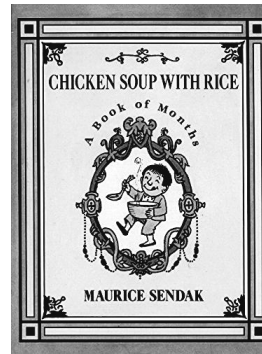
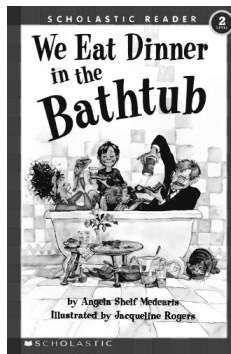


Give your toddler plastic or metal measuring cups. Show how to stack the cups on top of each other according to size. Talk about which one is biggest, which one is smallest, then count them. Have your toddler repeat the task.

Talk with your toddler about the shapes of plates, pots, napkins, cupboard doors, etc. Point to the objects as you name their shape.



**Check out your local library for some of these books:**



Source: PA Promise for Children

*Ferst Readers has adopted and adapted the READ guide format courtesy of:*



See the  
R.E.A.D.  
video here

**Rollins Center**  
for Language & Literacy

A Program of the Atlanta Speech School

**Read Right**  
From the Start



## A Message from Warren:

### *Looking Back, Looking Ahead*

Last year was strange, stressful, and sometimes sad. But through it all, our Ferst Readers community showed its optimistic and generous spirit.

Our local Ferst Readers chapter had a strong fundraising year, despite the unusual and difficult circumstances. We raised more than \$81,000, approximately 84% of what we need annually to support 3,000 children monthly. As always, 100% of donations we received will go toward supporting children in our service area.

Because of COVID-19, meeting our goal of serving 3,000 children a month has been challenging. We've dropped below that for the past five months, but have stayed above 2,900 monthly. Our goal remains 3,000 per month.

Parents, you can help us meet this goal. Please tell other parents of young children about Ferst Readers and the impact it has had on your kids. Encourage them to register their children for Ferst so they can receive free books every month up to age five.

Also, let us know if you have a great story to tell about what Ferst Readers has meant to your children and family. We love to feature our families in the monthly parent newsletter.

Best wishes in 2021!

Warren Steele,  
Ferst Readers of  
Muscogee County



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