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## Choosing Picture Books for Your Child

By Sally Murphy

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Whilst most parents recognize the benefits of introducing their children to books at a young age, the sheer number of books available can make the selection of appropriate titles a daunting task. The following pointers should be considered when buying or borrowing books for your toddler.

Firstly, remember that reading should be fun both for your child and for yourself. The Text should be lively and easy to follow, with only one or two sentences per page, so that the story progresses quickly.

The rhythm of the story is also important. Read a few pages of the story aloud, or at least say them in your head. Stories do not have to be in verse, but should sound light and pleasant, rather than sober or preachy. If written in verse, check that it flows smoothly.

The appearance of the book is also important. Remember, children use the pictures to help them interpret and understand the story. The pictures should be attractive to your child. For most children this means big pictures with bright colors.

Consider buying books which focus on subjects your child is interested in. A truck loving boy may not enjoy a book full of pretty fairy pictures. remember, however, to try to expose your child to different subjects – whilst your truck lover may not come round to fairies, you may be able to interest him/her in dinosaurs.

A common trap to avoid is the presumption that the price of the book is an indication of its quality. There are very many cheap picture books which offer excellent text quality and a great many expensive books which will fail to appeal to toddlers.

Wise selection of books for your toddler can help to foster a love of reading in your child which will last a lifetime.

Sally Murphy is a teacher, author, reviewer and mother of six young children. You can visit her online at [www.aussiereviews.com](http://www.aussiereviews.com) or [www.sallymurphy.writernetwork.com](http://www.sallymurphy.writernetwork.com)

## **Audio Books For Children**

**By Paton Jackson**

Tired of looking for the solutions for stopping the "Are we there yet?" questions? Looking for an educative modern method that will make your children pleased? The solution might be audio books. Find out in the following article, the benefits and uses of audio books for children.

Audio books for children are actually audio versions of children's' books. You may think of audio books for children as a perfect way to pass the time at home or when traveling. Your child may listen to the audio book using a mobile device as a CD player to listen to audio books on CD, an MP3 player to listen to downloaded audio books or a walkman to listen to books on tape.

The narration is done by the author or by a professional actor (In some audio books for children there are several actors). In some audio books there is music or sound effects. So what are the benefits of getting your child the latest Harry Potter audio book? Well, Listening to audio books broadens the vocabulary, teaches correct pronunciation, develops the imagination of your child, encourages the child to read other books of the author and more than all makes your child happy. Encourage your children to listen to audio books that they can not read yet - think of the audio books as an expansion of the old fashion books and as a substitute.

Most of the audio books for children in the market are professional but yet it is recommended to listen to a few minutes of the audio book before getting a new audio book. Listen to the reader - Is the voice pleasant, is it clear, is the music or sound effect in the audio book suits the story, may it be scary.

Some of the best sellers audiobooks for children are Harry Potter audio books, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Little House on the Prairie etc.

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