

Book Nook

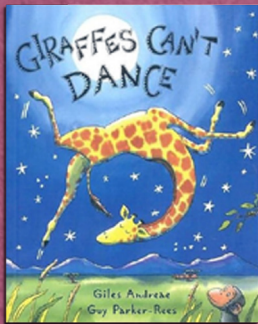
The Hanen Book Nook

with Tamara Stein,
Hanen Certified Speech-Language Pathologist.

Hi everyone! Welcome to the Hanen Book Nook. I'm excited to share some of my favourite children's books and talk about ways you can use them with young children to promote their emergent literacy skills.

Every other month, I'll take a fun children's book off my shelf and talk about some simple ways you can use it to build the critical foundations of learning to read and write.

I hope you enjoy it!



This Month's
Featured Topic

Building Vocabulary

Chosen Book:

Giraffes Can't Dance
by: Giles Andreae

What are emergent literacy skills?

Emergent literacy skills refer to everything children need to know before they can learn to be successful readers and writers. Studies have shown that children who start school with higher levels of these skills have greater academic success.

Emergent literacy skills include:

Conversation – As a child engages in a conversation, she can draw on her knowledge and experience to make new connections, form new knowledge and build language skills. The better her conversational skills now, the easier it will be for her to understand what she reads later on.

Vocabulary – How many words a child understands is one of the most important factors in learning to read. The more words a child knows, the easier it is for her to learn new words and to gain meaning from the stories she reads.

Story comprehension – Experience listening to and understanding stories will eventually make it easier for a child to read and write stories on her own.

Print knowledge – Before a child can read and write, she must understand how print works. For example, she'll need to know that print is made up of letters of the alphabet, that letters combine to make words and that print is read from left to right.

Sound awareness – To be prepared to read, children must understand that words can be broken down into syllables and smaller sounds, and that letters correspond to certain sounds.

Many emergent literacy skills can be picked up during book reading, but the way you share books with children can make a big difference to how much they learn about literacy. Over the next few months, I'll be sharing helpful tips and strategies for how you can tweak the way you share books with children so that you can best support their early literacy development.

Where the ideas come from

The tips and strategies I'll be sharing are from The Hanen Centre's two guidebooks on emergent literacy – *ABC and Beyond* (for educators) and *I'm Ready!* (for parents). These guidebooks are based on the most current research in emergent literacy and offer practical interaction strategies for nurturing emergent literacy skills during book reading and other daily conversations and activities.

How I hope you'll benefit from the Book Nook

There are so many books to choose from, and many possible emergent literacy skills to focus on. Where do we start? Sometimes the amount of choice can be overwhelming. By providing concrete examples of how I use some of my favourite books to support emergent literacy, I hope to inspire you to do the same, whether you are reading with children in a classroom or at your kitchen table!



A little more about me

I'm a Hanen Certified Speech-Language Pathologist and I work at The Hanen Centre as a Clinical Program Assistant. I do a number of different things at Hanen, but some highlights include leading Hanen Programs for parents and educators, offering Hanen e-Seminars for professionals, and providing trainings to educators in the city of Toronto.

I'm excited to take on the Book Nook as an extra project, and I hope you enjoy it!

Tamara