When to Use Books

- one-on-one to comfort a child
- in a Bible-learning center to reinforce a Bible-teaching aim
- in large group to reinforce the Bible teaching truth or Bible story
- at the door as you greet children

Choose books that:
- can be read in 5 minutes or less.
- are written in simple language.
- have colorful pictures that are realistic and simple.
- contain repetitive words or phrases.
- are durable with hard covers, cardboard or laminate.
- create happy, secure feeling.
- do not use fantasy characters or talking animals.

Through books, a child . . .

- learns to problem solve.
- develops an understanding of how to live and work with others.
- understands, identifies, and responds to emotional situations.
- learns listening skills.
- develops language and vocabulary.

Adapted from Love, Laughter and Learning by Mathias and Van Brink, Conventina Press, 1999.
1. Sit on the floor.
2. Hold book so child can see it as you read.
3. Encourage preschooler to talk about book.
4. Allow preschooler to turn pages.
5. Substitute child’s name in story as appropriate.
6. Respect the child who chooses to look at books alone.
7. Provide time to let preschooler ask questions about book, look at pictures, or respond to something in the book.
8. Books used in group time should be large enough for everyone to see.
9. Encourage preschoolers to play out the story in the homeliving area.
10. Allow a younger preschooler to skip around in the book if he or she wants.

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1. A simple, well-written story line
2. Rhyming words and rhythm
3. A word or phrase is repeated throughout the story
4. Gives children opportunities to name objects, answer a question, or repeat phrases
5. Real photographs and illustrations are true to life
6. Short enough of children’s attention span
7. Realistic stories of real-life situations
8. Books teaching a value or Bible truth