



Share a book everyday to create a reader for a lifetime!



Title: The Busy Little Squirrel

Author and Illustrator: Nancy Tafuri

Book Summary: The busy little squirrel is very busy getting ready for winter. He is too busy to nibble pumpkin with the mice or hop rocks with the frogs. He is too busy to lie in the sun with the cats or run in the field with the dogs. What is he so busy doing?

Before Reading, use the following conversation starters to engage your child's interest in the book.

To create interest in the book, ask your child to look at the cover picture of the book. Encourage your child to describe what the squirrel is busy doing?

To develop book awareness, talk with your child about what the words "title," "author" and "illustrator" mean. Ask your child if s/he would like to write the words or draw the pictures for a book. This book is written and illustrated by the same person.

During Reading, use the following ideas to keep your child actively engaged in the book sharing.

To develop print awareness, run your finger under the words as you read. Point out letters that are familiar to your child or are in his/her name.

To make learning relevant, encourage your child to act out what the animals are doing. Hopping like a frog on a rock or running like a dog through the field.

After Reading, use the following activities to extend your book sharing experience.

To generate curiosity in the outdoors, sit outside with your child. Ask him/her to close his/her eyes and listen to the sounds. What does s/he smell? Lay down in the grass and look at the sky. Ask your child to describe what the clouds could be.

To develop verbal skills, use open-ended questions to encourage discussions. Discussions can continue long after book reading has finished. Talk in the car, talk in the line at the grocery store—just talk!

To create healthy habits, spend time with your child being physically active every day. Jump rope or hop and skip. Pretend to fly like a bird or leap like a frog. Talk about your child's favorite animals and then imitate their movements or go on a nature walk to see those animals in their outdoor environments.

Onslow County Partnership for Children



Together We Build Brighter Futures