



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



**Title:** Zero Is the Leaves on the Tree

**Author:** Betsy Franco

**Illustrator:** Shino Arihara

**Book Summary:** Zero is the shape of an egg. It is the number of the leaves on the tree in the Fall. It's the sound of stars filling the night sky.

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

**To develop book awareness,** talk with your child about the cover of the book. Explain that the title, author, and illustrator are shown here. Discuss what those words mean.

**To generate personal connections,** ask your child open-ended questions about the tree? What does it look like? Describe the trees in the park. Are they like the tree in the book?

**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. Practice making the sound the letter makes.

**To build verbal skills,** ask your child to describe the illustrations. Encourage him/her to notice the details of the pictures and describe them. After your child tells you what s/he sees, repeat the descriptions and add a few more details to work on new vocabulary.

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

**To encourage creativity,** take your child on a walk in nature. Look for leaves, feathers or tree bark. Gather these items to create a book about nature. Encourage your child to add his/her own illustrations and/or words to the book too.

**To promote connections to science and math,** encourage your child to discuss the seasons when you read a book. Take time to count items in the illustrations and in the environment you are in. Books provide a starting point for expanding learning into other concepts.

**To initiate active play,** ask your child what s/he would like to learn to do. Would s/he like to be able to skip or hop on one foot? Does riding a bike or shooting a basketball sound like fun? Encourage your child to try new things and be physically active to keep growing in healthy habits.

Onslow County Partnership for Children



Together We Build Brighter Futures