

# Words that *Cook!* Parenting with children's books™

DVD Viewing & Workshop Guide

Show 1:  
Reading Starts with Interests

[www.WordsThatCook.org](http://www.WordsThatCook.org)

## About Words That Cook!

Words That Cook! is an award-winning educational media company producing and delivering innovative literacy resources that empower parents and educators to inspire and motivate children. Our products and services include educational television programming and DVDs, Web resources, accredited courseware and training, and family literacy publications.

## About Words that *Cook!* Parenting with children's books™

Originating as a 13-part series broadcast on select PBS affiliates and on public access cable stations nationwide, [Words that Cook! Parenting with children's books](#) is the winner of the *International Reading Association 2005 Broadcast Media Award for Television* and is now available in DVD format.

This series celebrates the joy of reading, the art of writing, the wonder of storytelling and the magic of wordplay through a combination of interviews and live action spiced up with animated fun.

Professionals, experts, parents and children model and discuss enjoyable and practical techniques for enriching literacy experiences. Designed for educators and parents of children ages 0-12, each DVD includes an original 30-minute episode, comprised of five or six related segments, plus bonus guest material and messages from the executive producers.

## About this Viewing & Workshop Guide

This guide is designed to help you get the most out of the DVD, whether you are nurturing family literacy in your home, center or school.

With the guide, you can review the many family literacy suggestions presented throughout the show, read summaries of recommended books and engage in suggested activities.

If you are a professional planning workshops for others, you'll find helpful show overview and summary information as well as appropriate discussion prompts for both parent workshops and professional staff development.

The grade levels specified for each DVD chapter and extra indicate the grades to which the topics and modeled strategies apply. When children are featured, the *italicized* grade level indicates the range into which those children fall. If other grade levels are also listed, the topics and modeled strategies are appropriate for these grades as well.

By watching, discussing and using the strategies modeled in the show, we hope you and your family, or the families you serve, will be empowered to create dynamic and exciting reading and writing experiences for children.

## Summary of Show 1: Reading Starts with Interests

Choosing books that reflect a child's interests and connecting them to activities can help children start (and keep on) reading. Whether it's animals, puppets and toys, music or fingerplays that ignite children's imaginations, the guests on this show demonstrate how to use books to support individual interests and expand children's horizons.

### Show 1 Outline

#### Show Intro (length - 1:59)

In the Words that *Cook!* virtual kitchen, hosts Monty Haas and Martine Bernard introduce the theme of this show: *Reading Starts with Interests*.

#### Chapter 1: Babies and Books Program (length - 4:48)

**Guest(s):** Diane Ramsay, Youth Services Librarian

**Location:** West Springfield Public Library

**Grade Level(s):** *Infant/Toddler*

**Topic(s):** best types of books; using board books and big books; lapsits; impact of reading aloud on language development and school readiness; expanding books with related follow-up activities; choosing books that feature familiar characters, objects, themes, etc.

**Modeled Strategies:** visiting the library and engaging children in shared reading (read-alouds, group lapsits, storytimes, etc.); providing a copy of each book used in a group lapsit to each parent and child; holding books outward for groups of children to see as you read; using big books in groups to encourage child-book interaction; pausing when reading aloud to discuss content and ask questions

**Book(s):** *Where Is Baby's Mommy?* by Karen Katz; *I Love Animals* by Flora MacDonnell

#### **Recipes for Success™:**

Use board books

Name and point to objects on page

Find books with big pictures

Choose high contrast books for infants

Start reading right away

Link activities to books

Read about familiar objects

## Chapter 2: Read-Aloud Techniques (length – 3:49)

**Guest(s):** Lyman Phillips and his 4-year-old daughter

**Location:** Studio

**Grade Level(s):** *Pre-Kindergarten*; Kindergarten – Grade 2

**Topic(s):** enjoying reading aloud; introducing new books through appealing covers or favorite topics; illustration-based predictions and discussions; connecting books with children's interests; expanding books with related follow-up activities; prereading books

**Modeled Strategies:** building reading comprehension by talking about what is happening in a story; exploring books first through illustrations; establishing bedtime routine of reading aloud; connecting books with children's interests; expanding books with related follow-up activities

**Book(s):** *Feathers for Lunch* by Lois Ehlert

### **Recipes for Success:**

Choose books with attractive covers

Slow down when reading

Discuss pictures first – ask what's happening

Consider child's experience and interests

Skim beforehand – hold surprises until reading

## Chapter 3: New Books (length – 1:39)

**Guest(s):** Laurie Joy Haas, Words that *Cook!* Executive Producer, with Honey the Cookie-Bookie Bear™

**Location:** Morse Institute Library Children's Room

**Grade Level(s):** All Levels

**Topic(s):** importance of re-reading favorite books; creating excitement about new books

**Modeled Strategies:** holding books outward for groups of children to see as you read

**Book(s):** *Happy Birthday, Maisy* and *Where Is Maisy's Panda?* by Lucy Cousins

### **Recipes for Success:**

Read more books by the same author

## Chapter 4: Family Reading (length – 1:53)

**Guest(s):** Rita Chang and her 9-year-old daughter

**Location:** Chang Family Home

**Grade Level(s):** Pre-Kindergarten; Kindergarten – Grade 2; *Grades 3 – 6*

**Topic(s):** borrowing books from the library; connecting books with children's interests; using books to teach about responsibility; reading aloud with older children; home libraries

**Modeled Strategies:** having all kinds of reading material available throughout the home; making home library bookshelves more inviting to children by integrating their artwork and favorite magazines; setting an example of reading by displaying your favorite books on home library bookshelves

**Book(s):** *The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norton Juster; *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson; *Chicken Soup for the Pet Lover's Soul* written and edited by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Marty Becker and Carol Kline

### **Recipes for Success:**

Help kids find books on their interests

Read with children who can already read

Build a home library

## Chapter 5: Book-Based Field Trips (length – 4:14)

**Guest(s):** Heidi Chait, Childcare Director, Cambridge Economic Opportunity Council

**Location:** Boston Common (*Make Way for Ducklings* Sculpture) and Studio

**Grade Level(s):** *Pre-Kindergarten*; Kindergarten – Grade 2

**Topic(s):** preparing children for field trips and outings with related books and songs; book-based exploration and dramatic play; establishing a family tradition of reading aloud; re-reading favorite books; introducing new books; expanding books with related follow-up activities;

**Modeled Strategies:** expanding books with related follow-up activities; asking questions and sharing conversation to introduce new words and concepts; stimulating children's imaginations through book-based dramatic play; creating book-based artwork; engaging children in practicing the sounds of language through rhythm and rhyme in song and story; incorporating gestures into songs and stories; singing the words of books

**Book(s):** *Make Way for Ducklings* by Robert McCloskey; *Five Little Ducks* by Ian Beck

### **Recipes for Success:**

Prepare for outings by reading

Encourage questions and discussions

Compare likes and differences

Enable dramatic play

Use children's suggestions

Read each day

Try related activities

Ask for help in the kitchen

## Chapter 6: Gestural Language (length – 2:54)

**Guest(s):** Elizabeth Duquette, Early Intervention Specialist in Speech and Language

**Location:** West Springfield Public Library

**Grade Level(s):** *Infant/Toddler*

**Topic(s):** communicating with sign language and fingerplays; correlating fingerplays with fine motor skills, basic grammar and syntax

**Modeled Strategies:** using basic sign language; engaging children in fingerplays

**Recipes for Success:**

Introduce gestures for action words

## Chapter 7: Fingerplays (length – 1:54)

**Guest(s):** Diane Ramsay, Youth Services Librarian

**Location:** West Springfield Public Library

**Grade Level(s):** *Infant/Toddler*, Pre-Kindergarten

**Topic(s):** fingerplay resource books; using and creating fingerplays

**Modeled Strategies:** selecting books with multicultural images

**Book(s):** *Too Many Rabbits and Other Fingerplays about Animals, Nature, Weather and the Universe* by Kay Cooper; *The Baby's Game Book* by Isabel Wilner

**Recipes for Success:**

Find fingerplay books

Make up fingerplays together

Talk and interact with your baby

## Show Recap/Close (length – 2:04)

Hosts Monty Haas and Martine Bernard review selected Recipes for Success and present the Recommended Book List.

### Extra 1: A Word from Our Producers (length – 7:14)

**Guest(s):** Monty Haas and Laurie Joy Haas, Words that Cook! Executive Producers

**Topic(s):** history of Words That Cook, LLC; how Words that Cook! Parenting with children's books came into being; central literacy themes of series

### Extra 2: More with Diane Ramsay – “Imagination Storytelling & Puppets” (length – 2:41)

**Guest(s):** Diane Ramsay, Youth Services Librarian

**Grade Level(s):** *Infant/Toddler*, Pre-Kindergarten; Kindergarten – Grade 2

**Topic(s):** using different puppets with young children; using puppets to encourage imagination and storytelling; using puppets to dramatize nursery rhymes; using peek-a-boo puppets to entertain and comfort

**Modeled Strategies:** responding to children's actions with conversation; letting children choose objects for play; engaging children in imaginative play with puppets; using character voices for puppets; using puppets to dramatize nursery rhymes; introducing and reinforcing vocabulary and concepts with puppets

### Extra 3: More with Diane Ramsay – “A Book and a Song” (length – :35)

**Guest(s):** Diane Ramsay, Youth Services Librarian

**Grade Level(s):** *Infant/Toddler*, Pre-Kindergarten; Kindergarten – Grade 2

**Topic(s):** engaging young children in book-related song and movement

**Modeled Strategies:** engaging children in practicing the sounds of language through rhythm and rhyme in song and story; encouraging clapping and movement; selecting songs that include onomatopoeia; associating words with pictures

### Extra 4: More with Diane Ramsay – “Using Toys to Develop Language” (length – 3:25)

**Guest(s):** Diane Ramsay, Youth Services Librarian

**Grade Level(s):** *Infant/Toddler*

**Topic(s):** making animal noises when playing with animal toys; using toys to support language learning and other cognitive, physical and social development; playtime as a means for learning; choosing manipulable, soft, non-electronic toys; using peek-a-boo toys

**Modeled Strategies:** making animal noises when playing with animal toys; using toys to introduce and reinforce vocabulary and concepts; using peek-a-boo toys

## Show 1 Recommended Book List

### For Ages 0 to 3:

#### **Bubba and Beau Go Night-Night**

Written by Kathi Appelt

Illustrated by Arthur Howard

Baby Bubba and his dog, Beau love to go “bye-bye,” especially when it’s with Big Bubba in his trusty red pickup truck. On this errand-running adventure, they stop at the Feed and Seed, the post office, the fruit and vegetable stand and, for a treat to cap off the day, it’s ice cream at the Freeze Deluxe. Even though their day has been action-packed, when Bubba and Beau arrive home, they’re still not ready for bed. What will Mama Pearl and Big Bubba do to get these two little rascals to sleep? This delightful bedtime tale told with a southwestern flair will kindle smiles and giggles for everyone.

#### **In My World**

Written and Illustrated by Lois Ehlert

This radiant and colorful book provides a visual feast for the young child. “Wiggling worms,” “glittering stars” and “singing birds” spring to life through the die-cut design that creates layers of creatures and natural wonders ripe for discovery. On each page, words and phrases describe the image while the following page names what is depicted, which promotes an adventurous guessing game. A closing rebus poem revisits all of the images in the book.

### For Ages 3 to 6:

#### **1001 Animals to Spot (Usborne 1001 Things to Spot series)**

Written by Ruth Brocklehurst

Illustrated by Teri Gower

This book cleverly sets you and your child on an animal counting and search-and-find mission. Leo, an artist, has created realistic yet vibrant and energetic drawings of animals and environments. Each double-page spread depicts a variety of animals in their natural habitats including the jungle, the forest and the North Pole. Along the margins, each animal to search for is shown and labeled by name and a number indicating how many times that animal appears in the pages. There are also bonus games to enjoy such as enlarged drawings of parts of animals that you and your children try to match with drawings of the appropriate whole animal. This book is designed to grow with your child as she develops skills – moving from enjoying the illustrations, to counting, to reading the animal names, to recognizing the various habitats. This book is sure to provide hours of exploration and fun!

#### **Bow Wow Meow Meow: It's Rhyming Cats and Dogs**

Written and Illustrated by Douglas Florian

If your child loves rhythm and rhyme and cats and dogs, this is the book for you! Here are 21 amusing and clever poems featuring cats and dogs of different breeds, both domesticated and wild. The formats of the poems are as varied as the types of animals, including a few selections of graphic or concrete poetry in which the arrangement of the words themselves conveys characteristics of the animals. The playful, and often “pun-full” language of the poems is perfectly complemented by the childlike, humorous illustrations. This book is a pure delight for all readers, young and old.



## For Ages 6 to 9:

### **Courage**

Written and Illustrated by Bernard Waber

In this lovely and inviting book, we see children, a few adults and even one dog displaying courage in their everyday lives. Sometimes their courage is shown in small acts, like “tasting the vegetable before making a face.” Sometimes it takes digging deep and “being the first to make up after an argument.” This book provides numerous examples of the different kinds of courage to be found all around us and within us. An inspiration for us all!

### **How to Talk To Your Dog**

Written by Jean Craighead George

Illustrated by Sue Truesdell

Does your child understand that your beloved family pooch actually has his own language? It's a fact! Whether it's through sounds, visual or chemical cues or physical contact, your dog is trying to tell you something. This book explains the different aspects of “dog talk” and how you and your children can learn to speak to your dog in his own language. Talk about building communication skills! This lighthearted but informative guide becomes more and more appealing as you take in the illustrations that combine photographs of the author interacting in loving ways with irresistible cartoon pups.

### **What Do You Do with A Tail Like This?**

Written by Steve Jenkins

Illustrated by Robin Page

There's a lot more to this book than just tails. How about ears, eyes, mouths, noses and feet? Using their particular features or adaptations, animals can do astounding things. On the two-page spreads, you will see specific parts of different animals with the question, “What would you do with a \_\_\_\_\_ like this?” The following spreads reveal the animals in full and explain what each creature does with its tail, eyes, mouth, etc. Expressed in simple language accompanied by bold cut-paper collage images, this book offers readers a dynamic, adventurous and exciting learning experience. When you use the book to spur an interactive guessing game, it will make an already enjoyable book even more enthralling. And for the more advanced and extra curious readers, you'll find a picture glossary with additional animal information at the close of the book.

## For Ages 9 to 12:

### **Because of Winn-Dixie**

Written by Kate DiCamillo

This book weaves a tale of friendship, family and man's best friend. When 10-year-old Opal moves to Florida with her preacher father, she leaves behind everything and everyone she loved. One day, Opal goes to the local supermarket and finds much more than a loaf of bread or a container of milk: she comes out with a stray dog. She fittingly names the dog after the supermarket and soon finds that Winn-Dixie isn't just any old dog. He's big, a bit on the ugly side and not so well-behaved, but what he lacks in style and manners, he makes up for in humor and affection. Opal finds out more about her absent mother, becomes friends with some unique local characters and learns a lot about forgiveness – all because of Winn-Dixie.

## **Love That Dog**

**Written by Sharon Creech**

Jack has no interest in reading poetry, never mind writing it. As he writes in his school journal, "...boys don't write poetry. Girls do." But his teacher, Miss Stretchberry, doesn't give up. She exposes Jack and his classmates to exciting and unique poets and poems (all of which are included at the end of the book). Jack begins to discover that poetry is much more than he'd thought: you can write about any subject in any way and it doesn't even have to rhyme. He begins to develop his own style, gathering inspiration and influence from poets like William Carlos Williams and Walter Dean Myers. When a verse by Myers inspires Jack to write about his beloved dog Sky, it's obvious that Jack has truly found his own voice and can't help but share it.

## **Shiloh**

**Written by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor**

When 11-year-old Marty finds an obviously abused dog, the right thing to do isn't so easy to figure out. Marty wants to keep the pup, hide it away and take care of it – even steal food for it if he has to. But part of him says the dog should be returned to its owner, even though that means the little beagle will probably suffer more abuse and neglect. Maybe he should tell his parents and see what they think he should do. Readers can't help but be drawn into this story with its many twists and turns and the ever-present love of one special boy for one special dog.

## **For Parents:**

### **Help Your Children Learn to Read (Usborne Parent's Guides series)**

**Written by Betty Root**

How can parents instill a love for reading early in their children's lives? Where do you start? And once you've started, how do you move forward? This brief, concisely written book walks you step-by-step through processes for helping your children learn to, and ultimately want to, read. Using succinct statements drawn from years of experience as a reading specialist, Betty Root addresses not only using books, but also engaging children in activities that support the development of reading skills. There are chapters discussing the importance of talking, listening, repeating rhymes and rhythms, playing games and reading aloud, just to name a few. Explanations of different methods of reading instruction and guidance for dealing with reading problems are also included. As your child grows from a baby into his early school years, you will return to this book again and again for suggestions that will help him continue to experience the joy of reading.

### **Really Reading! 10 Simple and Effective Methods to Develop Your Child's Love for Reading**

**Written by Janet Gardner and Lora Myers**

Reading shouldn't be a chore: it should be fun! And how you interact with your children and books can make all the difference. In a practical approach free of jargon and complex analysis, this book will set you and your kids on a path to years of enjoyable and rewarding reading experiences. Reading skills are explained and organized by level of difficulty and developmental progression. Skills like learning new words and predicting outcomes occur first. More complex skills like making connections and inference follow later. Strategies include starting with books that appeal to your child, making reading a habit, going to the library, varying the kinds of books you read and developing a home library. The clues for which strategy to use often come from your child through such factors as attention span, verbal ability and body language ("fidget-and-squirm factor"). By using the tips and advice in this book, you will guarantee positive reading experiences for your children and for you.

## Suggested Literacy Activities

Support your toddler as she grows into an emergent reader with rebus poem books like *I Love You* by Jean Marzollo. This book offers the joys of rhyming and decoding pictures wrapped together in a message of love. Rebus poems can be fun for older children, too. Visit [www.ReadWriteThink.org](http://www.ReadWriteThink.org), click on the Search link and search for "I Love You" (make sure to select Exact Phrase from the "Using" drop-down list before clicking on the Search button). From the results, select Writing Poetry with Rebus and Rhyme. This connects you to a lesson plan using Jean Marzollo's book as a model for you and your children to write poetry. In addition to the plan itself, you will find helpful Resources including a link to a List of Rebus Books.

Running errands is an excellent way for children to learn about their environment and a great opportunity for you to stimulate their language acquisition and vocabulary development. When your toddler is in tow on trips to the grocery store, the pharmacy or the library, take the time to talk about and name everything you see: produce items, signs, books and more. You might just be surprised at how much your little one retains the next time you run similar errands.

As you read and explore books with children of any age, talk about what you are reading and seeing. Note which themes – like nature, construction or animals as well as specific types of illustrations like collage, watercolors or gouache – your child brings up repeatedly: these are his natural interests. Follow up on these interests with more related books and activities to enhance his motivation and desire to read.

To support an interest in animals, you can also check out the National Wildlife Federation site for Kids & Families ([www.nwf.org/kids](http://www.nwf.org/kids)) and click on the appropriate age group category image. You can select from Wild Animal Baby: 1-4, Your Big Backyard: 3-7 or Ranger Rick: 7 & up. From each of these pages, you can link to age-appropriate animal Activities, Book Reviews, Recipes and more. There is also the Caregiver's Corner through which you can sign up for monthly E-mails containing more activity ideas. Try exploring other nature and ecology Web sites built just for kids. Check out a wide variety of topics, activities, games and more in the Kids section of the National Geographic site [www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com) and at EcoKids ([www.ecokids.ca/pub](http://www.ecokids.ca/pub)).

## Additional Words That Cook Resources

Words That Cook develops resources for professionals and parents that help to motivate and inspire children to learn and to love reading, writing, storytelling and wordplay. At our Web site ([www.WordsThatCook.org](http://www.WordsThatCook.org)) under Free Resources, you will find valuable information derived from the television series, including activity and additional reading ideas connected to each recommended book. Also at the Marketplace of our site, you can learn more about our other literacy-related products and services.

## For Professionals

### Discussion prompts and group activity ideas for teacher/staff workshops

How could you address the different interests of children in your class when choosing books?

Select and discuss some of the modeled strategies and Recipes for Success.

Separate into small groups of participants. Provide each group with children's books from which to create related activities. Share the activity ideas with the whole group.

### Discussion prompts and group activity ideas for parent workshops

Talk about participants' reactions to Diane Ramsay's statements about over-stimulating young children with television and battery-operated toys.

Select and discuss some of the modeled strategies and Recipes for Success.

Either in small groups or as a whole, create a fingerplay for a particular book. For participants with older children, create an appropriate activity that extends the themes of a particular book. Share the fingerplays and/or activity ideas with the whole group.

*When working with ESL/ELL families, help them to understand the value of learning and applying literacy strategies in their primary language. Encourage them to also apply strategies in English if it is comfortable and if the adult has developed the English language skills to sufficiently challenge their child.*

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