



Connecting children with the joy of books!

Thank you for giving a book to each child to keep for their own!

Some Ideas to Make the Most of a Book Gifting Opportunity

The difference between a **Book Give-Away** and *Gifting a Book* is small but **SIGNIFICANT!**

Your enthusiasm and presentation of a book gift can be the key that gives a child or family the encouragement and motivation to open and then enjoy a book again and again! Ideally every child in a classroom or program receives the same new book to take home, then each child knows and loves the same story. However, book gifts can also be gently used books of different titles that are collected as donations. Gifting any book creates a classroom community based on book ownership.

Increase the impact of the book gift: small ways to make a BIG difference

- Build anticipation by talking about the book days before you give it out. You could read it out loud, appreciating the story and each illustration, before you let on that you will be giving the book as a gift.
- Make a presentation of giving the book to children. Choose a special time to give the book out such as during a “Book Group,” snack time, a home visit, or in conjunction with a group outing and announce that “It is TIME!” Or have the school principal, program director, or someone equally “big” in the child’s or family’s life hand the book out.
- Create pride in ownership by saying out loud, “This book is a gift to you. It is your very own book to keep and enjoy (or take home).” Add a nameplate sticker to the book for the child (or teacher) to write in the child’s name.
- Show that **you** enjoy and value the book by reading the book aloud together after the child has his or her own copy.

Strengthen the child/book connection with book extension activities

- Read the book aloud together more times, after the child has the book at home.
- Do open-ended activities related to the book such as:
 - discuss the book together
 - relate real life to details or characters in the book
 - draw an image from the story or in the style of the illustrator
 - write a different ending to the book or in the style of the author
 - write to the author about the book
 - play act part or all of the book with puppets, costumes, or props
 - create art projects that reflect the ideas in the book



Strengthen the home/school connection with materials to share

- give materials to the family about the importance and joy of reading aloud to children
- give information about the author of the book along with a book list of additional reading
- give suggestions to the family about how to have fun with a story and how to play with words