

JUST THE FACTS

Books can help children explore their interests. Do they want a puppy? Are they interested in bugs? Do they want to help you cook in the kitchen? Do they identify every truck or car they see on the road? Then it is time to plan a visit to the non-fiction section of the library. Here are some tips for selecting non-fiction reading material:

- Look for books that have pictures as well as text.
- Look for a recent publication date.
- Ask your child what they want to know and have them help select the books on their topic. Encourage them to flip through the book and look at the pictures to help them decide.
- If all the books on a topic are long and difficult, check for magazines on that topic.

Talk about what you both see in the illustrations or photos. Your child may be interested in just one chapter of a book. It is okay to start in the middle, or read only parts of a book. Ask your child what they remember from the book. Let your child write or dictate statements to you to fill in the following chart, and praise them for all they remember.

WHAT I KNOW ABOUT: _____

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Encourage them to use descriptive words and whole sentences to tell you what they've learned. For example: "The greyhound is faster than a beagle." "Snakes are not slimy to touch." "Muffins cook faster than a whole loaf of bread because they are smaller." "A horse's height is measured in hands."

This tip sheet is being brought to you by the YMCA. YMCAs across Canada serve over 500,000 children in various programs. YMCA Canada is a member of the Abundant Assets Alliance, a partnership of YMCA Canada, the YMCA of the USA and Search Institute, working together to help young people obtain the 40 developmental assets that they need in order to thrive. To learn more about the developmental assets and how you can help your child build these assets, visit www.abundantassets.org.

One of the developmental assets that helps young people thrive is "Reading for Pleasure." This series of tip sheets and the resource, *Raising Kids Who Read*, created by YMCA Canada, helps adults build this asset with the young people in their lives. To download copies of any of these resources, go to http://www.ymca.ca/eng_ycdaresources.htm#Res6.



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