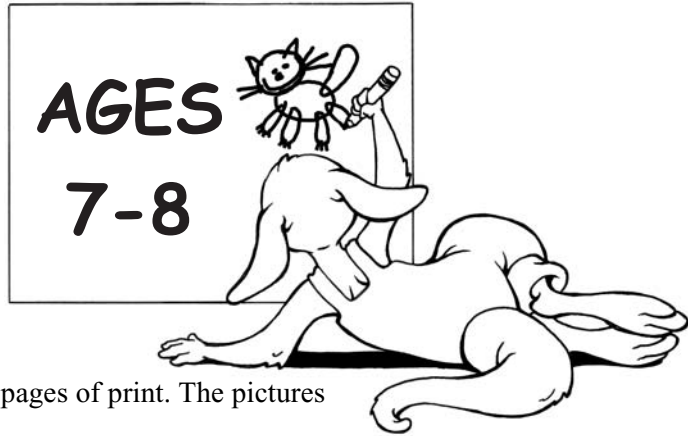


The KEEP BOOKS your child is bringing home offer lots of reading practice for children who can already read simple books. They also give children chances to read different kinds of books. You will find books that have science and math ideas in them. It is important for children to read books that help them think about those ideas, because later they will have to learn them through reading. This variety is very important. Good readers know how to read in many ways!



Your child will learn to read books with whole pages of print. The pictures will help in understanding the story.

### **Reading KEEP BOOKS With Your Child**

- ☞ Before reading, talk with your child about the book. It is all right to talk about the meaning of the whole book—what it is about and the names of the people or animals in it. Don't be afraid you are giving too much away! Look at the pictures and tell your child what is going on. All of this talk will help your child read the book for the first time. You can point out a few hard words, but it is not necessary to go over every new word. If your child knows a lot about the story before reading, it will be possible to figure out some new words.
- ☞ Have your child read the story with your help. Probably, your child will not need to point.
- ☞ *If your child is having trouble every few words, the book is too hard! Stop! Read the book together for the first time.* It is important for children not to struggle. Reading should be fun—not too hard!
- ☞ After reading, talk about the story. What did your child like or find surprising? What might happen next? Encourage your child to read the story several more times.



### **More Learning**

- ☞ Let your child color the pictures using colored pencils so the coloring won't show through.
- ☞ If the story reminds you of anything about your family, point it out. If you do this, you will soon find your child doing the same.
- ☞ Provide magnetic letters and have your child make known words quickly. Your child can break the word apart and put it together several times. Your child can make new words by changing the beginning, middle, or ending letter. Having magnetic letters in both upper and lower cases is suggested to ensure your child begins using them appropriately.
- ☞ Write easy words from the books on cards or pieces of paper. Be sure to print clearly in lower case letters. These words can go into a special box of words. Play "your pile, my pile." Shuffle the cards and have your child turn them over one at a time and read them. Every word read accurately goes into your child's pile. Watch it get bigger!

### **Blank KEEP BOOKS (My Own KEEP BOOKS®)**

Choose a favorite book. Help your child write a book on the same idea and draw the pictures. It is not important for your child to spell every single word correctly. It is more important for your child to think about the sounds in words. If your child wants to write a word, you can say: "Say the word slowly. What can you hear?" Your child can write some of the letters in a word. You can write the rest to spell it correctly. After your child has learned to say the word slowly and think about the sounds, encourage your child to spell the word. For example, if your child writes *lik*, instead of *like*, say: "That's great! You heard three sounds. Now you need an e to make it look right."

**For more information about KEEP BOOKS, visit us at [www.keepbooks.org](http://www.keepbooks.org).**