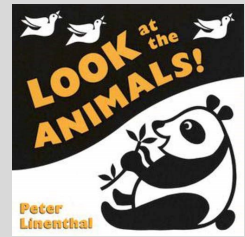




LOOK at the ANIMALS!

By Peter Linenthal



Reading with your child is an excellent way to expose your child to words, topics, and ideas that are more complex than what they would see in books they can read on their own. To help make story time more interactive consider using the PEER method described below. Read more about the PEER method [here](#).

PEER

PROMPT

Prompt your child with a question. This will help your child engage more deeply with the book.

Example: Point to an object in the picture. "What is that?"

EVALUATE

Evaluate your child's response by agreeing or clarifying.

Example: "That's right! That's a balloon."

EXPAND

Expand on your child's response by connecting it to something they have experienced or by being more descriptive.

Example: "That's a big, red balloon! We saw one of those yesterday."

REPEAT

Repeat the prompt you started with and encourage your child to use what you've discussed to answer again.

Example: "Can you say big, red balloon?"

Activities

- » **During Reading:** Point out the bright, bold words. Allow time for your child to spend time looking at the words and the pictures. An infant can look at one page up to one minute if interested.
- » **Contrast Painting:** Allow your little one to finger paint with black and white.
- » **Animal Identification:** Point out and name animals when you see them outside, in books, or on tv. Talk about the sounds they make and movements they perform. Encourage your child to imitate you and the animal.
- » **Animals in Action:** Take your child to the zoo and/or visit a local farm so that your child can experience different animals in different environments.

