10 Books to Read to your Child Before Kindergarten

❖ **One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish by Dr. Seuss**
You can't go wrong with any Seuss book, but the singsong verses, real and imagined beasts (like a seven-hump Wump), and simpler story line in the classic tale will have kids roaring. It's also chock-full of "sigh words" for 4- and 5-year olds and colors for younger kids.

❖ **One Family by George Shannon and Blanca Gomez**
Featuring multicultural families of many sizes, this counting book clearly introduces the concept that "one" can mean a single item or a collection of things. A page reads, "One is eight. One box of crayons. One row of ducks. One family."

❖ **Monsters Love School by Mike Austin**
Bright colors and cherry monsters sweep kids up in the excitement of starting school. But the book also touches on children's fears and apprehension, like when monster Blue asks, "What if I get hungry?" and "What if no one likes me?"

❖ **Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak**
Wild child Max sent to bed without supper after threatening to eat his mom. But her next move puts this book on the list because of the message of unconditional parental love-even when you misbehave-is reassuring to kids.

❖ **Where the Sidewalk Eds by Shel Silverstein**
No one will appreciate those nonsensical poems more than preschoolers. One silly rhyme: "Teddy said it was a hat/So I put it on/Now dad is saying/'Where the heck's the toilet plunger gone?"

❖ **Bully by Laura Vaccaro Seeger**
This 21-word story to the crux of teasing and forgiveness: A bull calls a chicken, well, "Chicken!" Tells a turtle he's a slowpoke. But when a goat retorts that the bull is a bully, he apologizes, and the animals play together.

❖ **Llama Llama Time to Share by Anna Dewdney**
One of the most compelling stories about sharing, this book explores what happens when a llama won't let the new neighbor girl play with his toy.

❖ **Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin Jr.**
In this fun rhyming of A to Z climbing up and falling from the coconut tree, kids lean their letters without even realizing it. Bonus: The front and back inside covers colorfully depict the upper- and lowercase alphabet so you can work on letter recognition with your child after the story.

❖ **Don't let the Pigeon Stay Up Late! By Mo Willems**
From "I'm not even tired!" to "I'll go to bed early tomorrow night instead!" the stalling tactics of a cute pigeon who claims he isn't sleepy sounds familiar. This book will help your child laugh at his own behavior-just when you need a bedtime routine the most.

❖ **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl**
Chapter books aren't just for older kids! The story of Willy Wonka's mysterious candy-making operation will hold your child's attention night after night and expose them to a more sophisticated plot.

Summer Preparation for Kindergarten

- Play letter and sound identification games in the bathtub, while eating dinner, or driving in the car.
    - It is very helpful if your child can identify all 26 letters and know their sounds.

- Turning on the captions while you have the T.V. on can help with tracking and sight word identification.

- Reading together every day helps and prepares a child in more ways that we can count!!
    - By the end of Kindergarten, children have to retell a book from beginning to the end. Asking them what the book you read together was about will help them develop this skill.

- Foster writing early by hanging up pictures your child draws.
    - If children are ready to add words to their stories, inventive spelling is the first stage of spelling.
    - It is absolutely okay if they just draw and orally tell you a story to accompany the picture.

- Print is all around us, so making an environmental print book out of pictures that you child sees every day helps them to see they are a learner.

More importantly, have fun with reading and writing!
Any work you do over the summer will give your student a jump start as they enter kindergarten in the fall!

Reading is the **KEY** to learning