

Fostering a Love of Reading

How do pictures in a book affect reading skills and comprehension? Do we need to look at pictures in a book? What is the purpose of a picture book?

Inspiring Visual Thinking - Illustrations in a picture book help children understand what they are reading, allowing new readers to analyze the story. If children are having difficulty with the words, the illustrations can help them figure out the narrative, which can increase their comprehension.

Increasing Engagement – Picture books allow teachers or parents to spend time discussing the story, pictures and words. This gives young readers confidence and allows them to talk about what they see on the page, what happened in the story, what the characters are doing and which events have unfolded.

The general purpose - a picture book is to express ideas, characters, stories and themes through a merging of text and image. The images are used to create worlds, characters and meanings beyond the text alone. Traditionally, it was common to view picture books as serving as reading tools for younger children.

Activity: Look at the pictures and not the words to make up your own story then read the words to see if your story was similar. A fun literacy idea!