

# Express Yourself

## Primary Objectives

9b. Speaks clearly

## Why It's Important

Once your child learns how to make simple choices by pointing or using some other gesture, she will be ready for the next step. Through this activity, you can help her learn how to use a short sentence in order to choose an activity, place of activity, or materials.

## Materials

A variety of books, such as board books, cloth books, picture books, books with different textures, and informational books

## What You Do

1. Notice when your child begins to use words more frequently to express her choices. She may indicate that she wants to read a book by saying *Read to me* or by handing you a book from the bookshelf.
2. Display all types of books that you know would interest her. Ask your child, *Which book is your favorite?* If she picks a book without saying anything, encourage her to use words. *You like the book about Spot.*
3. If your child needs more guidance in choosing a book, take two books off the shelf and say, *Would you like to read this one or that one?* She may point to the book she wants to read.
4. Acknowledge that she has made a choice and is expressing it. *I see that you chose to read Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Let's read it together.*
5. Encourage her throughout the day to use her words to make subsequent choices.