



Going into

# Pre-Kindergarten Reading

The mission of St. Patrick Catholic School is to nurture in its students an abiding Catholic faith while pursuing academic excellence and modeling honesty, respect, and service as dynamic members of our world community.

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School reading lists are designed to ensure children practice the skills necessary for success in the new year. There are no skill level expectations in the all-day prekindergarten class. Instead, we join the American Academy of Pediatricians in recommending that every child be read aloud to every day. The choice of reading material is not essential, but the close physical presence of a loved one is. Books on screens are fine for occasional distraction, but there is no substitution for a story at bedtime.

The following principles can guide parents wishing for help in picking books for the four-year-old child: Rhyming books are great! Let your child make guesses to complete the rhymes. Discuss how a different word would change the story. Some old favorites:

**The Cat in the Hat**

by Dr. Suess

**The Berenstain Bears and the Spooky Old Tree**

by Stan and Jan Berenstain

**I Can't, Said the Ant**

by Polly Cameron

Four-year-old children enjoy a very gentle challenge, quickly resolved. The older toddler is beginning to understand the concept of personal responsibility and recognize the presence of injustice in the world. They like a happy ending. Examples of favorites:

**Knuffle Bunny**

by Mo Willems

**Wemberly Worried**

by Kevin Henkes

**Dogger**

by Shirley Hughes

Beautiful illustrations draw children into books. Picture books are valuable at this age because they help carry the story for a child still developing vocabulary. Offer plenty of time to study illustrations. A concise list of beautiful books:

**More, More, More, Said the Baby**

by Vera Williams

**Snow White and the Seven Dwarves**

by Randall Jerroll

**The Story of Christmas**

by Jane Ray

This list is a starting point. A four-year-old will enjoy choosing books at the library. Parents should expect to read the same story many, many times. Repetition helps a child understand that the letters printed on the page mean the same thing every time; it is an essential step in developing literacy skills. The most important thing is that the family relax, enjoy, and cuddle up for a story every day.