

Taken from

<https://speechandlanguageathome.com/blog/over-100-wonderful-wordless-picture-books-to-boost-your-childs-language> (retrieved March 9, 2020)

“They are in fact rich with language and an excellent tool for building complex thinking and emotional development.

- They are great for all ages. You can never be too old or too young to enjoy a wordless picture book.
- *You* tell the story. There is no “right” or “wrong” way to read it.
- Struggling readers can feel confident in “reading” a book.
- They teach young children that you don’t have to write words to tell a story. Authors can tell a story with pictures too.
- Learning to notice nonverbal cues helps develop social-emotional skills.
- They can target:
  - Story telling
  - Building vocabulary
  - Correcting grammar
  - Answering simple and complex questions
  - Making predictions and inferences
  - Comparing and contrasting
  - Describing and sequencing events
  - Practicing speech sounds

**\*Sit face to face.** Sitting in front of your child allows them to watch your mouth make sounds. They can also see your facial expressions as you talk about the book together. Hearing you talk, seeing your face, plus the visuals on the page add up to a lot of rich input.

## 2. Get noisy (non-talker tip).

Make those animal and vehicle sounds (roar, beep, Zzzzz). You may awkward at first, but kids **love** it. Will your child copy you?

Act out what the characters are doing. For example, point to a sleeping animal, say “Shhh. Sleeping”. Close your eyes and to pretend to sleep. Point to pictures. Say what it is. Repeat it.

“Dog! Look dog. Woof woof. Dog.”

Again, it feels weird, but kids learn with repetition.

**3. Take a picture walk** before you get into the story. Flip through the pages together. Talk about what you see. This will set up the story.

Begin by asking, “I wonder what this book is about?”

What does your child notice?

What pictures are they interested in?

Do they have a personal experience they can connect to?

**4. Let your child lead.** Don’t feel pressured to *tell the story*. See what story your child makes up. If they need a little help... (see #5)

**5. Say what you are thinking.** (This is called metacognition) Tell your child what is going on in your head.

“I bet he’s gonna get wet.”

“I think that dog looks hungry.”

“I’m not sure what his mom will say.”

Follow up with “What do *you* think?”

Wordless picture books give parents a great opportunity to talk about feelings and problem solving.

- Is your child able to read the characters emotions?
- Do they recognize the problem?
- Can they figure out what the solution was?

Now that you are feeling more confident about picture books, go back and read them again. Part of the fun is never telling the same story twice. You’ll be amazed at how your child’s understanding and expressive language will develop over time.”

# Wordless Picture Books

Title	Author
Carl Goes Shopping	Alexandra Day
Chalk	Bill Thomson
Deep in the Forest	<a href="#">Brinton Turkle</a>
Flotsam	David Wiesner
Frog books	Mercer Mayer
Gall for Daisy	Chris Raschka
Good Dog Carl	Alexandra Day
Goodnight Gorilla	Peggy Rathmann
Here I Am	Patti Kim
Journey	Aaron Becker
Mighty Mizzling Mouse and Red Cabbage House	Friso Henstra
My Fried Rabbit	Eric Rohmann
Pancakes for Breakfast	Tomie de Paola
Quest	Aaron Becker
The Rabbits are Coming	Kathleen Bullock
The Snowman	Raymond Briggs
Tuesday	David Wiesner
Unspoken: A Story from the Underground Railroad	Henry Cole
Wave	Suzy Lee

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