

<Picture Books and Babies>

How can we communicate with our babies? We can play “peek-a-boo”, hold them in our arms, look them in the eyes, sing and talk to them.

But we do not have to forget that picture books can be effective tools for parents to share feelings with their babies. It doesn't matter if you read even the same book everyday because a child can always discover something new inside the same picture book and react in a different way. By following these reactions you are given the unique chance to look at your child's development. This booklet has been prepared to help you experience this joy.

You will find a selection of some of the most beloved picture books. How about visiting a library or a bookstore to find your child's first-ever picture book?



<Using Picture Books to Bring Your Child up Bilingual >

Living in Japan, you have got the unique opportunity to bring your child up bilingual, using both your mother tongue and the Japanese in your daily life. In case you are experiencing that there are not many or even any children's picture books available from your home country, how about looking at the illustrations in Japanese picture books while telling the story in your own language? When you speak your mother tongue, your words are filled with confidence, which is as important to convey your native culture to your child as your smell, emotions and facial expressions.

Children learn to speak by combining what they experience with the related sounds. By reading picture books, both the illustrations and the voice of the reader create the stimulus for increasing children vocabulary while developing their mind and spirit.

By using both your mother tongue and the Japanese you will be giving your child a life-long present.