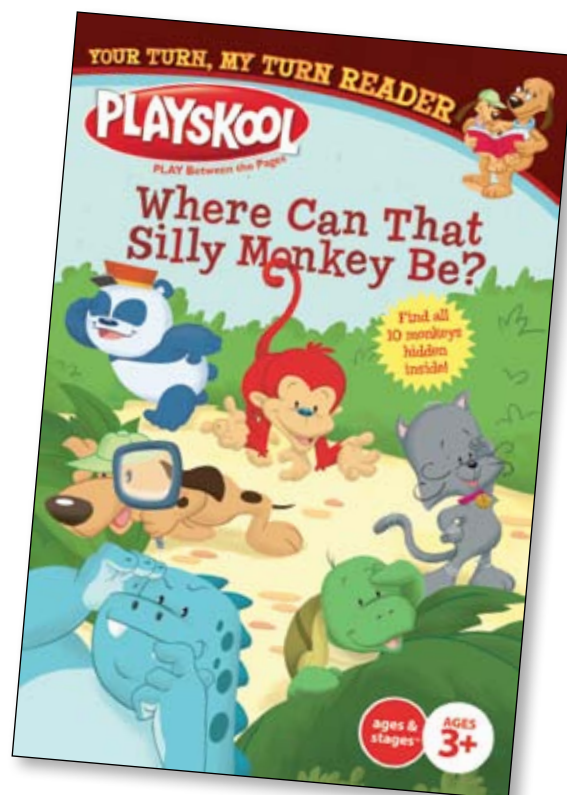
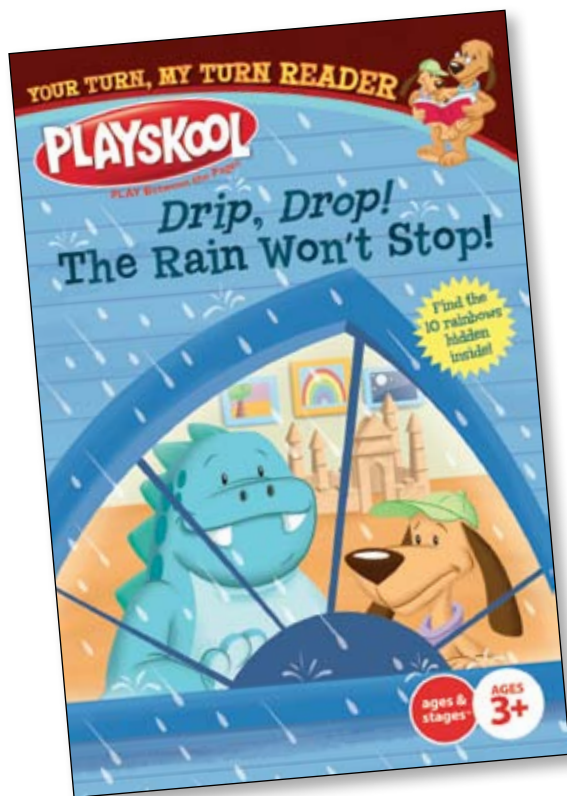


A Guide for Parents and Educators

YOUR TURN, MY TURN



Reading and Learning Together



This Section: After Reading



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After Reading

YOUR TURN, MY TURN: Reading, Learning, and Growing Together

The Your Turn, My Turn Series

The **Your Turn, My Turn** books are designed to facilitate interactive reading; the appealing stories and pictures present built-in opportunities for turn-taking and discussion. The left-hand pages are for parents or teachers to read to the child. The right-hand pages are for the child to read to you. The first time through a book, simply read the story, and model good reading. Then, gradually give the child more and more opportunities to read words, sentences, or entire pages on his or her own. After you read together, talk about the book. And look at the colorful pictures, which provide even more chances for discussing the stories—and imagining new ones.

The Importance of Reading

It is widely known that reading to children boosts their language, thinking, and school-readiness skills. But how we read to children is just as important as how much and how often we read to them. Children love to participate in reading, and research confirms that encouraging and nurturing their involvement is the most effective approach.

Your Turn: The Role of the Adult

So, what are the best ways to involve a child in reading? Here are some simple strategies to keep in mind:

- **TAKE TURNS:** Be a good model. Give the child plenty of examples of how to read and respond to a book. But then step back, give him or her a try, and make sure to be an active listener.
- **TALK:** Think of reading as a dialogue, or conversation. Ask questions and share thoughts that help the child understand what he or she reads.
- **ENJOY:** Keep it fun! If the child doesn't seem ready for a particular challenge, don't force it. Put it aside and try it again later. Trust yourself—you know the child best.

This Guide

This guide offers suggestions for interaction and discussion at all stages of reading: before, during, and after the book. We've separated it into three parts, so you can move at your child's pace. Feel free to try a bunch of the ideas, repeat the ones your child responds to best, and occasionally add some new ones for variety.

We hope that this guide helps you create a rewarding shared reading experience.



Reflection & Meaning

AFTER READING: Reflect Together

The following activities will help children reflect on and draw meaning from the story.

While the books are geared towards children between the ages of 3 and 5 years, you should use this guide based on each child's individual abilities/needs.

What's Next?

Talk with the child about how the story ends. Then ask him or her to imagine what might happen next. Have the child dictate the story's next scene, and write it out on a sheet of paper. Then give the child crayons or markers and have him or her create an illustration for this new scene. Allow the child to add as many pages as he or she wishes.

Share Your Thoughts

Tell the child your favorite part of the story, and then ask him or her to share a favorite part. If the child doesn't have a favorite part, or if he or she didn't enjoy the story, that's okay, too. Ask the child to explain one thing he or she didn't like about it. Explain that different people enjoy different stories, and that it's fine to express your opinion as long as you do so nicely.

