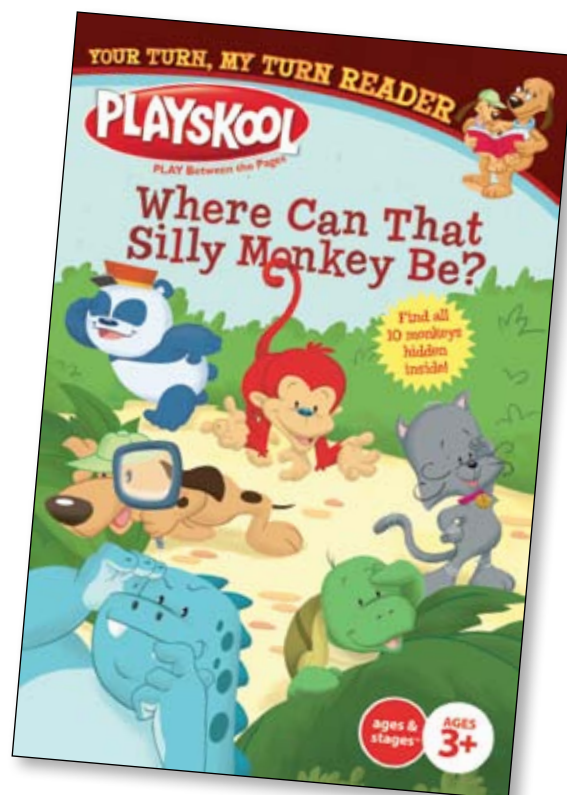
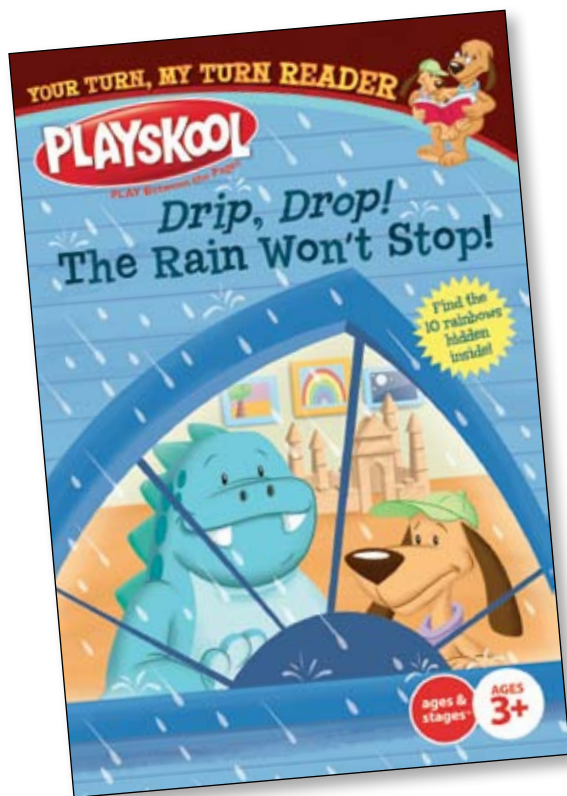


A Guide for Parents and Educators

YOUR TURN, MY TURN



Reading and Learning Together



This Section: Before Reading



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Before 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.



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Preparation

BEFORE READING: Prepare Together

The following activities will help children prepare to read and think about 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.

Take Turns

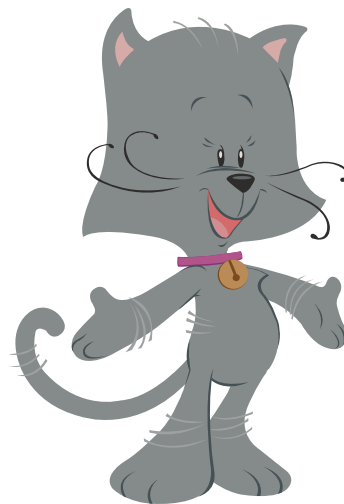
Tell the child that you will be taking turns reading a book aloud. Explain what it means to take turns, and offer an example, such as taking turns while playing a board game.

- Ask the child to share some examples of taking turns at home, school, or the playground. Then practice this skill by taking turns counting to ten, reciting the alphabet, or singing lines of a favorite song.
- Encourage the child to say "your turn" each time you speak and "my turn" each time he or she speaks.
- Help the child see that taking turns involves being patient during the other person's turn, and paying attention so you don't miss your own turn.

Consider the Cover

Show the child the cover of the **Your Turn, My Turn** book. Read the title aloud and talk about the details in the illustration. Then, guide the child to make some predictions about the story based on the words and pictures on the cover.

- Ask questions that start with "wh words," such as *Who do you think the story will be about?* or *What do you think will happen in the story?*
- Take turns answering the questions. When it's your turn, be sure to answer in complete sentences to model this skill for the child.
- Jot down each prediction on a self-stick note. Later, as you read, help the child paste the notes on book pages where the predictions turn out to be correct.



Preparation

BEFORE READING: Prepare Together

Make a Connection

Help the child connect to the book by talking about how the topic relates to his or her own life.

- First point out the book's topic—such as “a rainy day” in *Drip, Drop! The Rain Won't Stop!* Then discuss what the child knows about the topic.
- Ask questions such as the following: *How does a rainy day look? How does a rainy day feel? What do you like to do on a rainy day?*
- Point out that the characters in the book may have some of the same thoughts, feelings, and experiences.

Go For a Picture Walk

The **Your Turn, My Turn** books contain colorful and playful illustrations that children love.

- Page through the book with the child and look at each picture.
- Point out things you notice, such as the main character (“It looks like this book is about a dog”) or the setting (“I think this book takes place at someone’s house”).
- Encourage the child to point out details he or she notices, too. Then, make up a story based on the pictures. Start the story by describing what you see on the first page, and then have the child add to the story based on the next page. Take turns in this manner until the end of the book.

