

CRITERIA FOR CHOOSING BOOKS FOR READING TO CHILDREN

developed by "ABCXXI – All of Poland Reads to Kids Foundation"

Good children's literature should foster child's healthy development in all of its aspects: emotional, cognitive, intellectual, social, cultural and moral. Books ought to contribute to the development of language and empathy, logical, critical and abstract thinking as well as the very potential and best features of every child. This includes: developing interests, openness to the world, sensibility to beauty, kindness to others, sense of humor, good taste, broadening of knowledge, improvement of one's self-esteem and righteous character.

Books for reading to children should:

- be addressed to a child, be understandable and interesting for him/her;
- be adjusted to child's age and sensitivity, not evoking fear or anxiety;
- be intelligent – dealing with something meaningful to a child, teaching something important
- be written or translated in correct and beautiful language
- teach rational thinking
- bring proper knowledge
- teach optimism, self-confidence and positive attitude to the world
- develop sense of humor, also the abstract one
- offer high standards of entertainment and develop good taste
- develop esthetic sensibility
- carry the message of respect for children, people, other creatures, animals, nature, country, recognized social norms and just law
- carry explicit and positive moral message, promote appropriate attitude and behavior models, and distance themselves from:
 - largely accepted examples of dishonesty (for instance cheating in school, taking others' property), violence as a way of solving conflicts or as a tool of domination, bullying, deriding, cuteness, breaking norms - that is behaviors that hurt and bring damages to society;
 - discrimination and harmful gender stereotypes, for instance, that girls are incapable of thinking and their role is to be appealing to others and to satisfy their needs, that boys have to be tough and insensitive, and their rude and irresponsible behavior is to be tolerated because of their gender, etc., but also race, nationality, age and religion stereotypes, even if they are presented in a "harmless" and humoristic form

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