



The Giving Tree

By: Shel Silverstein

Every day the boy would come to the tree to eat her apples, swing from her branches, or slide down her trunk...and the tree was happy.

But as the boy grew older he began to want more...

Reading to children enriches their language and listening skills, cognitive development, social skills, early reading and problem-solving skills.

ACTIVITY: Make Your Own Giving Tree Book

Creating books is one of many special and meaningful activities for preparing your child to read.

- 1.) Staple together sheets of copy paper or construction paper. It isn't the type of paper that matters. Children love the thought they are making their own books.
- 2.) Ask your child to draw pictures from the story. If they tell you they are drawing a tree or an apple, simply put the first letter of the word above what they have drawn. **A for Apple-T for Tree**, they begin to associate letters with words.
- 3.) Children will want to read you their book over and over again. Children start to associate the concept of letters through this activity. Much as a picture of a flower is a symbol, they will learn that letters are symbols for words too.
- 4.) Don't be surprised when your child begins to recognize small words like **and**, **but**, **no**, **yes** or even large words that they see often, **STOP** on the signs, or even **McDonalds**...