

## BOARD BOOKS

I am often asked “what books can I read to my very young child that will take a little solid handling”. There are wonderful books that have been created for just this purpose.

Some beautiful Australian picture books have been reformatted into **board books**, books like *Cuddle Time* (published by Walker Books) and *Playmates* (published by Puffin). These are just the right size for little hands learning how to explore books. Both books have familiar family/friendship storylines; are constructed from very heavy board that will take a lot of exploratory page turning; have solid print for the text and strong colours; and of course are enjoyable to read. The text in these books also allows the reader to use their voice to play with the words. Words from the books like *boing* and *zoom* and *snore* are perfect for this.

There are also nearly **wordless picture books** – like Tina Burke’s *Are You Hungry*, published by Puffin. This style of book is made of a light card and is wonderful for young hands to explore. Wordless picture books allow the readers, the parents and the child to create the story together. As they ‘read’ the pictures they identify familiar objects like the animals and the different food. And when the three words “are you hungry?” appear they provide an opportunity for the child to predict what might happen. Sometimes children will simply want to point to the objects in the book and not even create a story. And don’t worry if a different story is created the next time the book is read – that is one of the joys of wordless picture books.

Have fun reading!

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