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## VOOKS PARENT GUIDELINE

Dear Families,

We are excited for you to be using Vooks! As the leading streaming service for children's books, Vooks brings an ever-expanding collection of animated storybooks to any smart phone or tablet. With a child-friendly approach that emphasizes critical elements of literacy development, Vooks helps inspire a love of reading and supports parents in putting their young children on a path to reading success.

Pre-K 4 SA seeks to develop a world-class workforce through high-quality early childhood education for all children in San Antonio. Partnering with VOOKS is an opportunity to gain access to books in every child's home in our city! VOOKS can enhance the powerful impact on children's language learning and development.

Pre-K 4 SA's user friendly guides on sharing VOOKS with children for educators and parents, outlines simple practices with the goal of achieving measurable outcomes in children's literacy and future academic and lifelong learning.

We hope you enjoy the many books Vooks has to offer on your child's journey towards becoming a reader!

Thank you,  
Pre-K 4 SA & Vooks

## Building Emergent Readers with Vooks

### What to Do with Vooks

**1. Read together every day.**

- Read with your child every day. Encourage them to choose the story. Make this a daily ritual that you both will always remember.

**2. Talk about interesting words and details in the illustrations.**

- For example, "Look at the rabbit! The rabbit is fluffy and white. The rabbit is hopping and jumping around. Can you hop?"

**3. Tell your child how much you enjoy reading with him or her.**

- Talk about VOOKS time as your favorite part of your day because it is something you do together.

**4. Know when to stop.**

- If your child is struggling to pay attention, it is ok to just stop and say "We will do this another time. I love this time together and want us both to enjoy it."

**5. Be interactive.**

- Discuss what happens in the story, point out things you notice, and ask questions for which you may not know the answer.

**6. Re-read books.**

- Young children take pleasure in hearing the same stories they love over and over again. Children gain confidence in hearing books re-read multiple times and will develop the skills to memorize the text and "read" the story independently.
- A positive approach to providing young children with developmentally appropriate experiences with books would include an emphasis on reading VOOKS with children at least 3 times and then encouraging them after to "read" familiar stories to themselves.

**Tips for Using Vooks**

***TIP #1: Reading 20-minutes a day builds strong brains!***

- Activates areas in the brain that involve understanding the meaning of words and concepts tied to memory.
- Produces a state of mindfulness that reduces stress and improves mental health
- Introduces children to a world outside of their own reality and increases content knowledge, vocabulary and different global perspectives
- Improves listening skills
- Promotes self regulation
- Fosters cognitive development including language skills, information processing, reasoning, intelligence, and memory.
- Nurtures emotional development
- Cultivates a lifelong love of reading

***TIP #2: Find books that are age and developmentally appropriate for your child’s reading level.***

When it comes to choosing good VOOKS, no matter your child’s age, choose books you and your child will enjoy and keep reading! Here’s a helpful guide for choosing age appropriate books:

<b>Older Infants</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choose books that have single words with large pictures so that infants start associating meaning to the words.</li> <li>• Books with simple sentences or rhymes appeal to older infants.</li> <li>• Infants enjoy books with images of babies and small children.</li> <li>• Stories with surprises are fun for children at this age.</li> </ul>
<b>Toddlers</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look for books about everyday experiences.</li> <li>• Introduce books about feelings, colors, numbers, shapes and letters.</li> <li>• Select books written with predictable text and rhymes.</li> <li>• Try books showing children doing common things they may do and that tell simple stories.</li> <li>• Relax at the end of the day by choosing bedtime story books.</li> <li>• Encourage your child to sing along to books with songs.</li> </ul>
<b>Preschoolers</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Select books that promote imagination and problem solving.</li> <li>• Search for books with real-life circumstances that reflect aspects of your child’s everyday life.</li> <li>• Choose books about the ABC’s, counting, and simple concepts that appeal to your child’s interests.</li> <li>• Introduce your child to books that show cultures around the world that are different from theirs.</li> </ul>

**Choose Stories Related to Children's Interests**

- Stories written for children to enjoy are preferable to materials developed for the expressed purpose of teaching reading. Children's storybooks have countless opportunities to experience the richness of language. The variety of characters, situations, and information a storybook can provide contributes to building background knowledge about diverse topics which will promote comprehension in future academics for life.
- Observe ,listen,and seek to understand what young children are interested and curious about in order to intentionally choose VOOKS to deepen that interest or widen the scope of related learning possibilities.

**Seek Predictable Books**

- Predictable books are particularly helpful in encouraging rereadings. Predictable books contain repetitive language and/or predictable story lines to encourage independent reading.
- Choose a variety of fiction and non-fiction predictable books for children to read according to their interests.

***TIP #3: Have a conversation about the book with your child while reading together.***

Start with following your child's lead in their response to the story. The conversation after reading the VOOKS story is just as important as enjoying it in the first place. The act of talking is what helps your child's brain take what they learned and store it into their memories.

Children will develop the meaning around reading and writing only when they are engaged in inquiry based discussions about the stories read. Watch for expressions on your child's face and circle back to those moments to ask "What did you think about that part?". Invite discussion about the stories by thinking aloud in order to:

- Predict, and then confirm or disprove the prediction
- Make connections to other books
- Make connections to personal experiences
- Consider characters and what makes them do or say what they did
- Express likes and dislikes about the story

Borrow from these types of questions to get a conversation started! Share your own responses to the below questions. Children learn so much from hearing adults talk about their thinking!

FACTS	FEELINGS	MAKING CONNECTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What did you see?</li> <li>• What did you hear?</li> <li>• What was the character doing in the story?</li> <li>• What happened in the beginning, the middle and the end of the story?</li> <li>• What did you notice about the place(s) in the story?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When did you laugh?</li> <li>• What did you like?</li> <li>• What did you not like?</li> <li>• How did the character feel? (And why do you think that?)</li> <li>• How did it make you feel?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has this ever happened to you?</li> <li>• What did this story remind you of?</li> <li>• What would you have done in the story?</li> <li>• What could be another ending to the story?</li> </ul>

***TIP #4: Create reading rituals with your child for using VOOKS.***

Young children respond well to routines and rituals. There is comfort in knowing what to expect and when. Think about your day and decide when you could introduce a reading ritual. *Is it right before bed? Or right before dinner? Maybe even breakfast stories are a possibility.* When a child knows what to expect in their routine or ritual, their minds and bodies naturally begin to move into a more relaxed state. This promotes reading time as a special bonding activity for you and your child.

**Things you can do to create a reading ritual:**

- Choose a location and time of day that works for your schedule and when you know you won't be hurried to be somewhere.
- Choose a comfortable place that is quiet and away from distracting noises and activities.
- Turn on special lighting to signal it is reading time.
- Sing or play a selected song every day before reading time.