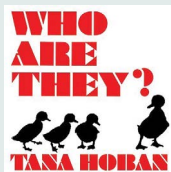


# Read to me! Learning about how text works

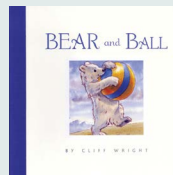
Few things are more effective than reading aloud to build children's literacy skills. Children learn all kinds of important things through read aloud. One of the things they learn is how text works. This is called gaining Concepts of Print and it's a key part of being a skillful reader. Children learn where the front of the book is, that the words are what we read (not the pictures), that the text stays the same each time we read it, that we read from front to back, left to right and top to bottom. There are some easy things that you can do when you read with a child to promote understanding of the Concepts of Print:

- **Show your child** the title of the book. Say, "This is the title or name of the book. It's always on the front. The title can give us clues about what the book will be about. What do you think a book called [whatever the name of your book is] will be about?"
- **Point to the words** as you read. Invite your child to point, too.
- **Ask your child to show you** the space in between the words, "The end." (This helps them understand that words have spaces between them.)
- **Have your child** "pretend read" a book to you. Often!

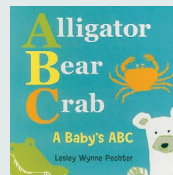
*Your child might also enjoy...*



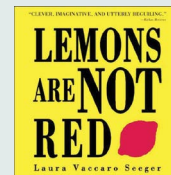
**Who Are They?**  
by Tana Hoban



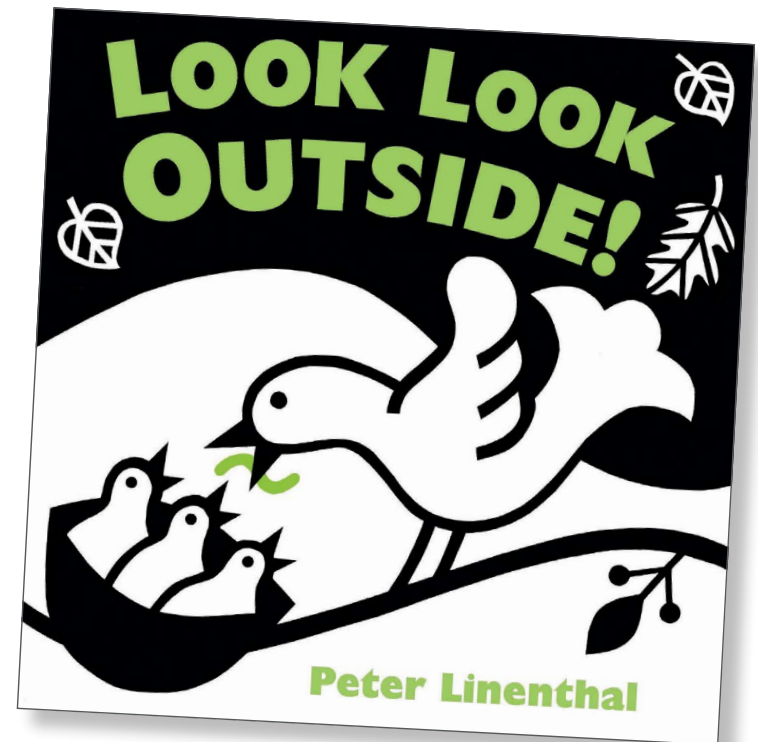
**Bear and Ball**  
by Cliff Wright



**Alligator, Bear, Crab**  
by Lesley Pechter



**Lemons are not Red**  
by Laura Seeger



*Raising Readers' 2-month  
selection for 2014*

**raising  
readers**