

Using Definition Books

Definition books are an excellent way to ignite the spark of curiosity and interest in a child. You can use these books to (1) extend a child's knowledge after learning of a topic in the natural world or via 3-Part Cards or (2) introduce a child to a new topic. Begin by setting the context. Either acknowledge the child's existing knowledge of the topic (e.g., if they have used the 3-Part Cards) or entice the child to a new topic. Say, *"This book has definitions for all of these wonderful words. Definitions use words to tell us what something means. Let's read them together."* Read each page and then pause to discuss the definition. Is that how they thought it would be defined? Does that sound right to the child? How would they define it? Continue reading the entire book together. Invite the child to take turns reading with you. Then, encourage them to take turns reading to each other or alone.