I’ll Build You a Bookcase
The 2022 CLEL Bell Award Book for READ

by Jean Ciborowski Fahey, illustrated by Simone Shin
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Reading is a fun way to interact with your child no matter how old they are! This book encourages parents and caregivers to make a special time and place for reading. Includes bilingual text in Arabic, Spanish, Vietnamese and more.

Activity Ideas for I’ll Build You a Bookcase:

• It’s never too early to start a reading habit with your child! Each family in the book has a different way of sharing and reading books together. Think about how you store your books. Are they easily accessible? Place a few near toys and invite your children to play with them. Make a cozy reading nook to associate reading with enjoyment. They’ll grow to be a life-long reader!

• Bring your children’s awareness to the different words on the opposite side of the page. Share the many ways and reasons why people communicate with each other; through print, speech, sign language and images. They’ll learn that words have meaning and want to know more about the signs and books in their environment.

• Encourage your child to read to their stuffed animals or pets. They can interpret the pictures themselves or tell the story in their words. Children who go into kindergarten with an understanding of how books work, and a confidence in their ability to share stories, will be more prepared to begin to learn how to read.

The CLEL Bell Picture Book Awards are given to books that provide excellent support of early literacy development in young children. For more information and for other activity sheets, visit http://www.clel.org and select the CLEL Bell Awards tab.

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