

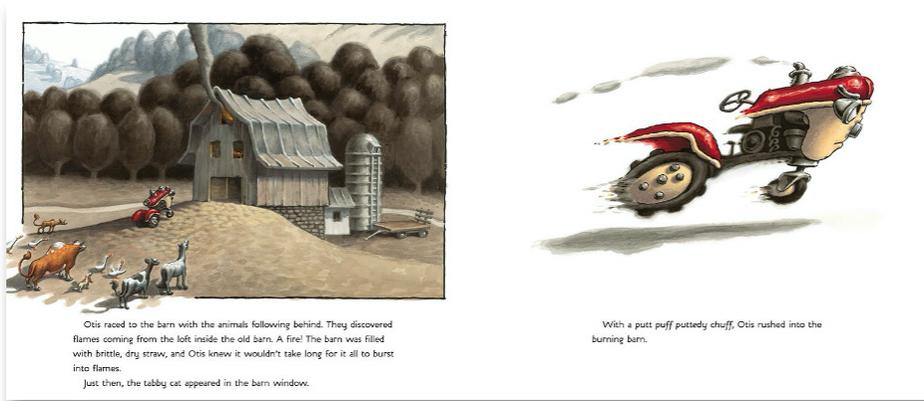
Otis and the Kittens

by Loren Long

Reading with your child is an excellent way to expose your child to words, topics, and ideas that are more complex than what they would see in books they can read on their own.

Conversations will help increase your child's oral language skills and build their vocabulary. C.A.R. is a conversation starter that you can use with your child any time.

Below is an example of how to use C.A.R. with the book, *Otis and the Kittens*.



C.A.R.	Example
<p>C Comment and Wait (count to 5) *Make a comment about what you see on the page.</p>	<p><i>Adult:</i> I can see that all of the animals except for the tabby cat are standing far back from the barn.</p> <p><i>Child:</i> Me, too. I bet they don't want to catch on fire!</p>
<p>A Ask questions and Wait (count to 5) *Ask questions that do not have a "yes/no" or one-word answer to them.</p>	<p><i>Adult:</i> Why do you think the tabby cat went into the burning barn?</p> <p><i>Child:</i> Maybe it forgot something.</p>
<p>R Respond by adding a little more to the child's response.</p>	<p><i>Adult:</i> I bet you are right! Animals have an instinct that tells them there's danger so it wouldn't go into danger unless there was something important in there.</p>



Activities	Parent Tips
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Talk with your child about what problem Otis had in the book and how the other animals helped solve that problem. » Take this opportunity to discuss how many problems are solved by inventions. In this book, point out that the pulley is an invention that helps move heavy things. » Extend the learning by reading books or researching other simple machines and how they work. » For a hands-on activity, design a pulley system with your child. Visit the link below for a sample activity. https://kidsactivitiesblog.com/27885/simple-machines?_szp=430134 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Read the book once on your own before reading it with your child. This will help you anticipate questions that they might have, especially with books where there is a life event that might bring up difficult conversations. » When reading about traumatic events, it is important for families to listen to their child’s concerns and ask them how they are feeling. Openly discuss what would happen if your child were in a similar situation. Having these conversations in the moment will allow children to express themselves and find comfort in knowing how to respond, rather than potentially worrying about what they would do if this happened to them. » Readers make predictions as they read. Encourage your child to predict what he/she thinks will happen in the book when looking at the front cover. Then, during the reading, ask your child what might happen next before you turn the page.
More Activities	Related Books/Resources
<p>This book is a great way to start the conversation about fire safety. Consider one or more of the activities below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Develop a fire safety plan as a family. The link below will help guide you through the process. https://1wrbcv3k7uab3ral8j15oor1-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/FPW17EscapePlanGrid.pdf » Write a letter to the local fire department thanking them for helping keep families safe. Encourage your child to write the letter with your support. » Visit a local fire station to take a tour and learn more about fire safety. 	<p>Little Blue Truck by Alice Schertle, illustrated by Jill McElmurry</p> <p>Firefighters A to Z by Chris L. Demarest</p> <p>Plan and Prepare! (Fire Safety) by Charles Ghigna and Drew Temperante, illustrated by Glenn Thomas</p> <p>Simple Machines: Wheels, Levers, and Pulleys by David A. Adler, Illustrated by Anna Raff</p> <p>Pull, Lift, and Lower: A Book About Pulleys by Michael Dahl, Illustrated by Denise Shea</p>

