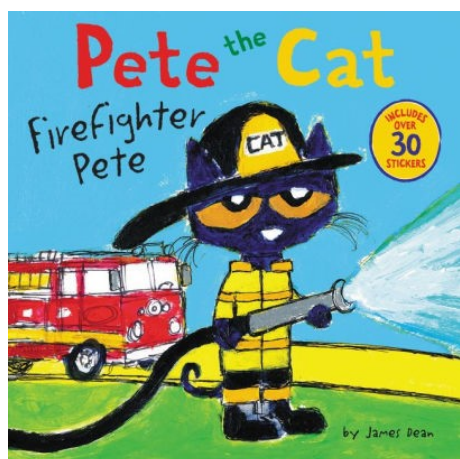


# Talking is Teaching

## Pete the Cat: Firefighter Pete (Paperback Book) Reading Tips



### Pete the Cat: Firefighter Pete By James Dean

One of our favorite characters is back....and this time, he's a community helper! This book provides a great opportunity to introduce elements of pretend play, using the book for fun ideas. Grab any hat you might have, throw an oversized coat on your child, and grab a vacuum hose as you transform into a firefighter. It's always fun to use every day props like bells for ringing as you enjoy this story together, and if you're lucky, your child will want to act out the story or make up their own!

This book also provides a great chance to review fire safety, as you point out your own smoke detectors, talk about the loud sound it would make, and act out exactly what your child would do if they ever hear the alarm. Help them walk through safety steps for exiting their home, finding your designated family safety spot, and remind them of the emergency phone number, 911. Practice using a phone, stopping short before a call is actually placed. Remember, children need to act out the things they are learning in order for them to fully understand. It's important to practice these things again and again.

It's always important to go through the steps of STOP, DROP and ROLL together as well, and you might even look online for a fun song to sing with this message.

This book has stickers in the middle, so you can easily remove these pages before enjoying the story together to limit distractions. After reading, you and your child will have fun placing the stickers throughout the book OR preschoolers may want to use them to write their own story. Have them tell you the words as you write for them, and they will gain confidence in becoming their own storytellers!

Through the book and imaginative play that will follow, your child will learn the importance of fire safety without being afraid.

# Talking is Teaching

## This Bug Needs a Boat (Board Book)

### Reading Tips



#### This Bug Needs a Boat By Melanie Worth

Our caterpillar friend needs help in this wonderful “cause and effect” board book, and your little one is the perfect engineer for the job! The main concept used throughout the book is helping children understand which objects will sink and which will float. You could allow toddlers to drop the objects encountered in the book (rock, feather, pinecone, acorn, branch and leaf) into a bowl of water to watch what happens in real life as you read. If children are preschool age, let them hold the objects and guess whether the object will sink or float before dropping it! Talk about what might happen if our caterpillar friend tried to ride on the object.

For our babies, allowing them to pat the brightly colored pages, and simply naming the many objects as you point will be a fun experience they will want to repeat over and over! Don't feel as though you must read all the words on the page, as the book is a little advanced for our youngest ones. Simply hearing your voice and enjoying the pictures together is what will promote learning and connection to you.

Look for shapes and name the many bugs you see together as the pages are turned. As you play outside together, be on the lookout for butterflies, ants, acorns and leaves.