



Reading Aloud to Your Child

Did You Know?

- Two decades ago in *Becoming a Nation of Readers* (Anderson, Hiebert, Scott, & Wilkinson, 1985) reading aloud was called “the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading” (p. 23).
- Reading aloud helps build fluency, vocabulary, background knowledge, and comprehension.
- Reading aloud develops healthy reading behaviors and an appreciation of reading.

So What Can Parents Do?

- Read aloud to your child for 15-20 minutes every day.
- Use read-alouds to stimulate discussion about social issues.
- Read books that rhyme and/or have predictable text (for non-readers).
- Read books that are above level for your children that are readers.
- Model for your child reading strategies good readers use:
 - ✓ Use the cover picture and pictures throughout the book to make predictions before reading
 - ✓ Encourage your child to ask questions as you read aloud. Ask your child questions such as “Why do you think the character did _____?” “What do you think will happen next?”
 - ✓ Encourage your child to make personal connections to the text.
 - ✓ Discuss the meaning of unfamiliar words.
 - ✓ After reading, ask your child to retell the story to you or to summarize what you read.

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- Conduct repeated readings with your child
- Record yourself reading a few of your child's favorite books. If you are unable to read for some reason, encourage your child to listen to the recordings.
- Choose a variety of texts to read aloud: picture books, chapter books, nonfiction, poetry, children's magazines (National Geographic for Kids, Your Big Backyard), or the newspaper are some examples

References

Anderson, R.C., Hiebert, H.H., Scott, J.A., & Wilkinson, I.A.G. (1985). *Becoming a nation of readers: The report of the commission on reading*. Washington, DC: National Institute of Education