



Read Aloud Tips for Parents



1. Read to your child every day. Make it a regular part of your daily schedule.
2. Allow your child to select the book to be read. Choose books borrowed from the public library, as well as books from your child's own personal library.
3. Sit your child close to you when reading aloud. Let your child assist you by holding the book or turning the pages.
4. Read the title of the book to your child. Tell your child the author's and illustrator's names. Read several books by the author and/or illustrator.
5. Look at the cover of the book. Ask your child to tell you what he/she thinks the book is about.
6. Use expression while reading the story. Change your voice as you read the dialogue of different characters.
7. Read the text exactly as it is written. Allow your child to "read" the repeated lines in the story. Help your child choose books with repeated lines or patterns.
8. Ask questions during the story. Why...?, How do you know...?, What do you think will happen next?, What might happen if...? (Just ask a few. This will let you know if your child is understanding the story.) Sometimes just read the story through without interruptions.
9. Encourage your child to look at the illustrations. Talk about some of the details in the pictures and the clues that they give about the story.
10. After reading the story, try one of the following:
 - Have your child draw a picture of a favorite part or character.
 - Make a sock or paper bag puppet of a favorite character.
 - Have your child retell the story. (two or three sentences is plenty)
 - Read the story again.
 - Take your child to the library and let him/her select another book by the same author.
 - Have your child write a similar book. Staple several blank pages together. Let your child draw or write to tell the story.
 - Write the next chapter or the book or story. Brainstorm what may happen next, then write about it and illustrate the new story.

"The most single important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in school is reading aloud to children. Parents play roles of inestimable importance in laying the foundation for learning to read."

From: Becoming a Nation of Readers: The Report of the Commission on Reading