

6 TIPS FOR READING ALOUD TO CHILDREN

Research has proven that reading aloud daily is one of the most effective ways parents and teachers can help children become successful and lifelong readers.

1. Let the Child Pick the Book

One excellent way to get young children involved in the reading aloud process is to allow them to select the book you read

2. Don't Be Afraid of Wordless Picture Books!

When reading a wordless picture book, ask the children questions such as: What do you think is happening here? (comprehension), What makes you think that? (inferring), What do you think will happen next? (predicting), Why? (vocabulary and oral language)

3. Start Small

The younger the child the shorter the attention span. When you first start reading aloud to your child, their attention span may be short. Reading aloud over time, their attention spans will get longer.

4. Be Creative With Your Voice

Here are a few hints:

- If different characters are speaking in the book, try doing a high voice for one and a low voice for another character. Or if you can speak in an accent like a Southern or British accent for a certain character, kids will eat that up!
- When the story has a sound effect, make the most of it! A loud “BOOM” or an animal sound will do wonders to keep the children engaged.

5. Read It Again

As adults we may not always enjoy reading the same book day after day, but reading the same book multiple times can really help children develop language skills and improve reading comprehension. If you are really tired of reading the same book, try reading it in a different voice. Or as you are reading, try stopping at a key word and see if the children can fill it in for you!

6. Explain Some New Words

Should you stop and explain every unfamiliar word in the book? If you did that, it would take forever to get through one book! We recommend inserting explanations of a few of the words your children may not have heard before – no more than half. Each time you re-read the book, you can explain different new words to build vocabulary.