

Discover the magic of reading aloud

For students in primary and junior grades

Reading is Love

You are your child's first and most influential teacher. Here are some practical tips to help you nurture learning connections with your child.

Find a consistent time, or two

Sometimes it takes a little juggling to find the ideal time to take that reading break with your child. Quality reading requires concentration so think about moving the reading routine from bedtime to earlier in the evening. The key is to have a routine that both you and your child look forward to.

Choose the right books together

Parents need to consider their child's interests, when choosing books, but they should also consider the books learning benefits.

- Non-Fiction texts build vocabulary
- Rhymes and poems encourage playing with language
- Books with predictable patterns encourage joining in
- Reading to your child a little above his reading level helps develop reading vocabulary
- Re-reading familiar books builds confidence
- New versions of old favorites keep the plot lines and characters fresh and interesting.

What's too hard to read aloud? Any reading material that is beyond your child's emotional or social maturity level is too hard.

Add excitement to reading

Here are a few tips to help animate reading:

- Reading slowly can add interest. Children's authors read their own books slowly with a lot of expression. Check out individual author's websites to hear their renditions!
- Long descriptions are hard to read aloud. If you own the book, pencil out or bracket these parts and skip them.
- Use toys, foods or pictures as props to help read, tell or retell the story.
- Prepare for a second reading with sticky notes beside your favorite sections.
- Sometimes give a fidgety child the opportunity to draw pictures about the story as you read.
- "Write" yourself and your child into new versions of favorite tales and enjoy performing them together.

Plan for a lifetime of learning

Great minds don't just happen- they are carefully nurtured within close relationships. Young children, who are learning to read on their own, benefit from repeated practice with easy-to-read books. As your child matures so should the reading material and your discussions. Book talks are a wonderful

way to interact with teens and young adults.

Coaching language

Coaching language encourages thinking at any age. Be a model student and show your child how to learn. Here are some questions and prompts that help clarify and extend that meaning.

Words that promote shared language:

- That's exactly what I was thinking.
- Oh, now I see what you mean.
- I never knew that...
- I'm not sure. What do you think?
- You're right! How did you figure that out?

Words that help make predictions:

- Let's look at the pictures. I wonder....
- I wonder what would happen if...
- What questions do we have right now?

Words that encourage comprehension:

- Does that make sense?
- Let's make a list of...
- Is there a part you don't understand?
- Are there some words you don't understand?
- I think that part might be important so I'm going to read it again.
- Let's retell that story from the pictures.

Words that confirm comprehension:

- Maybe we can find some clues.
- Well, we know now...
- Let's look at the picture again (read that part again) while we think about your idea.
- Could you tell me more about that?
- What do you mean?

Words that lead to critical thinking:

- Could that have really happened?
- Who do you think would like this book?
- Let's think about the message of the story.

Words for making connections:

- Does that remind you of anything? Anyone?
- That character reminds me of you. Remember when you...
- I wonder if we could find some other books about...
- That reminds me of the time that we...

Words for having fun:

- I love the sound of those words. I'm going to read them again.
- Let's clap out the words.
- Let's walk out the poem.
- Let's make up a finger play.
- Let's think of some words that rhyme with...