

Tips for Reading Aloud

- ✓ Take a minute to look over a book before you read it aloud.
- ✓ Make sure your children sit where they can see the book easily, especially if it's a picture book. But don't be concerned if your children don't want to sit still and listen. Some children prefer to draw or play quietly while you read.
- ✓ Read slowly and with exaggerated expression. The more dramatic the better. Don't be afraid to be a ham!
- ✓ Guide your children by pointing to the pictures and saying the names of objects. Point to the print as you read.
- ✓ Encourage your children to participate. Invite them to describe pictures, read bits of text, join you in saying phrases that repeat throughout the story, and guess what will happen next. Talk about the story with them and take time to answer their questions as you go along.
- ✓ Make the story more personal. For example, make up your own plot twists or substitute your child's name for the name of a character in the story.
- ✓ For a change of pace, have a puppet read a book aloud and turn the pages. Or get together with other children to read aloud together. Invite everyone to wear funny hats or dress like their favorite characters.
- ✓ Also encourage older children or teenagers to read aloud to a younger brother, sister, cousin, or family friend. Both children will benefit from the experience.
- ✓ Catch older children's and teenagers' interest by reading aloud short selections from books or articles you think they might enjoy — then give them the full-length version to read on their own.



Source: Reading is Fundamental, www.rif.org

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