

Tips for Reading to Your Children for Busy Parents



As presented by:



Why Reading to Your Children is Important

Reading aloud to children gives adults:

- A way to talk about new topics.
- Model reading.
- Show children that reading is important.
- Give new vocabulary to children.
- Expand the types of materials that they are reading.
- Build trust and affection.

More specifically, reading aloud teaches children that:

- English print language flows from front to back, left to right, and top to bottom in segments.
- Print is different from pictures.
- The words tell the story.
- The story is the same each time you read it.
- Stories have their own style.
- Stories come in many different styles and deal with fact, fiction, and different feelings.

Reading aloud also teaches children to:

- Expect the story will make sense.
- Predict what will happen next.
- Develop imagination.
- Listen for detail.





Reading Reminders



- It's never too early to start reading to your child. Children from babies to pre-teen's enjoy and benefit from being read to.
- Read aloud every day. Make it part of your routine before bed, as you're getting ready for your day or any where in between.
- Choose a variety books with your child that they are interested in. Look for bright, colorful pictures and a style of writing that flows.
- Read with lots of emotion; be silly! Roar like a lion, cackle like a witch – if you're enjoying the book then so is your child!
- Snuggle on the couch or have your child sit in your lap when you're reading — that's the best part!
- Remember to have fun! Make reading aloud you and your child's favorite time of the day!



Tips for Reading Aloud to Your Child

1. Look through the books with your child before you read them.
 - a. Look at the cover and guess what the story will be about.
 - b. Do a “picture walk” through the pages, guessing what is happening in some of the pictures.
 - c. As you read, ask, “What do you think will happen next?” and discuss.
 - d. After reading, ask “Did something like this ever happen to you?” and discuss.
2. Ask the question, “Have we ever read another book like this one?” Remind your child of the book.
3. Talk about the story after you finish reading it.
4. It's never too early to start reading to your child.

Don't Worry, Be Specific

Are you tired of asking your child, “What did you do in school today?” only to hear, “Nothing,” “I don't know” or “I played”? Why don't the children *TELL* us what they did in school?

The trouble is the question. We're asking the *WRONG* one! Try asking other questions and see if you get better answers. Many times, children have difficulty remembering because it's hard to start at the beginning. When they get home, their day at school becomes history. It's over and they go on to the next thing in their lives. Here are a few pointers to keep in mind when asking your child about school:

- Avoid general questions like “What did you do in school?”
- Avoid questions that can be answered with a simple “yes” or “no.” For example, “Did your teacher like your Show and Tell rock?” or “Do you have any homework?”
- Instead, get specific with your questions:
 - “Who did you play with today?”
 - “What was at the art center?”
 - “Tell me about the shape you are learning this week.”
 - “What do you know about fall?”
 - “What choices did you make at recess today?”
 - “What does 'Line Leader' mean?”
 - “What do you like most about school? Why?”
 - “Did you play house today? Who were you?”

These types of questions give your child something specific to answer. Talking after school is great way to engage your child and find out what they're doing at school.

What to Do When Young Readers Make Mistakes:

1. If the mistakes make sense, don't worry about it.
2. If the mistake doesn't make sense, wait to see if the reader will fix it.
3. Say, "Try that again."
4. Say, "Does that make sense?"
5. Say, "Did what you read look right and sound right?"
6. Tell the correct response.



Suggested Reading & Guidelines by Age Ranges:

Birth-8 months:

- Babies like colorful cardboard or cloth picture books
- Familiar topics (family, pets) are best
- Hold babies while reading
- Read frequently, with a goal of 20 minutes/day in short intervals

Suggested Books infants to 8 months:

1. Happy Baby Words by Roger Priddy
2. Baby Faces by Dorling Kindersley
3. From Head to Toe by Eric Carle
4. Peek-a-baby (lift the flap)

9-24 Months:

- Continue to hold babies while reading
- Continue to read at least 20 minutes a day, extending the time as toddlers are ready
- End reading sessions before the child becomes restless or irritable; make it pleasant for everyone
- Choose books connected to everyday experiences
- Play games like peek-a-boo and pat-a-cake//sing songs

Suggested Books 9-24 months:

1. Touch and Sparkle Farm by Make Believe Ideas, Ltd.
2. Tomie's 3 Bears and Other Tales
3. My First Mother Goose by Lisa McCue
4. Getting Dressed by DK Publishing Staff
5. Baby Einstein's Van Gogh's World of Colors
6. Guess How Much I Love You by Sam McBratney

ALSO NEEDED: Finger Puppets, such as

“Goldilocks and the Three Bears Finger Puppets” from “Educational Insights”

SUGGESTED: Music with **rhymes** and easily recognizable tunes

Preschoolers ages 2-4:

- Love to hear adults read
- Are beginning to draw and write
- Play with puzzles, blocks and games
- Use letter and number magnets on fridge
- Can retell stories and should
- Sing, clap, dance to rhythms and rhymes
- Can use a recipe with adult help
- Can help an adult label items in the house

Suggested Books for 2-4:

1. Brown Bear, Brown Bear by Bill Martin, Jr.
2. Make Way For Ducklings by Robert McCloskey
3. Swimmy by Leo Lionni
4. Olivia by Ian Falconer
5. The Three Little Pigs by Paul Galdone
6. Goldilocks and the Three Bears by James Marshall
7. Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin
8. Anno's counting Book by Mitsumasa Anno
9. If You Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Numeroff
10. Click, Clack, Moo; Cows That Type by Doreen Cronin

ALSO NEEDED for promoting preschoolers' literacy:

1. Pad of drawing paper
2. Box of washable markers
3. Box of pencils
4. Box of crayons
5. Water paints
6. Magnetic letters for fridge

*Also Suggested: Have You Seen My Cat? By Eric Carle, Spaceship by Karen Hoenecke, Raindrops by Sandy Gay, Spots, Feathers and Curly Tails by Nancy Tafuri. Phonics cards; Magazine subscription to *Turtle or Ladybug**

Beginning Readers, ages 5-7:

- Know many letters of alphabet and some letter sounds; can match sounds and write letters to make words
- Can recognize some words in print (may be fluent by 8)
- Love to hear stories and often retells them (encourage this)
- Can have meaningful conversations (talk, listen, discuss)
- Need to continue visiting libraries and bookstores, as well as museums, parks and playgrounds
- Can write thank-you notes and in journals, diaries, etc.
- Can use the family computer for drawing, writing, information

Suggested Books 5-7:

1. The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss (also The Foot Book)
2. Henry and Mudge Series by Cynthia Rylant
3. Clifford Series by Norman Bridwell
4. The Mitten and other books by Jan Brett
5. Maya and Miguel: Big Ideas by Cara Haycak
6. Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak
7. How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight? By Jane Yolen and Mark Teague
8. Stone soup by Ann McGovern
9. Frog and Toad Are Friends by Arnold Lobel

10. Lily's Purple Plastic Purse by Kevin Henkes
11. Nate the Great series by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat
12. Ramona the Pest by Beverly Cleary
13. Berenstain Bears series by Stan and Jan Berenstain
14. Amelia Bedelia books by Lynn Sweat

ALSO SUGGESTED for 5-7: Wind in the Willows, Heidi, Peter Pan, Ready Freddy series, Miss Spider's Tea Party, Wemberly Worried, Junie B. Jones series, Madeline books, and "Hello Readers" from Scholastic, My Messy Room by Nancy Packard, Wheels by Annie Cobb, etc.

Recommended as well for ages 5-7:

Age-appropriate interactive software (Jumpstart or Arthur series: Software for Kids Inc.)
Highlights magazine or Chickadee at Magazinecity.com
Beginning dictionary, i.e. Scholastic First Dictionary by Judith Levey

Arts and Writing supplies: Pencils; Drawing paper; Large-ruled notebook; markers; Colored pencils; "Magnetic Poetry Words"

Developing to Fluent Readers, ages 8-10:

- Begin to recognize and use standard spelling
- Can use reading strategies, particular with coaching
- May write in a journal or diary each day
- Enjoy taking turns reading aloud
- Can play reading and writing word games
- Like to visit libraries, bookstores and special events
- Enjoy having reading and writing displayed/celebrated
- Need to continue to have vision and hearing checked
- Use reading and writing for new and different purposes
- Understand and use dictionaries, thesauruses and encyclopedias
- Continue to use the family computer for writing, drawing and information
- Benefit from parents and teachers working together

Suggested books 8-10:

1. Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling
2. Amber Brown is Not a Crayon by Paula Danziger
3. Where the Sidewalk Ends poems by Shel Silverstein
4. James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl
5. The Cricket in Times Square by George Selden
6. The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis
7. Charlotte's Web or Stuart Little by E.B. White
8. Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli
9. Sylvester and the Magic Pebble by William Steig

Additional Suggestions for ages 8-10:

Owl Moon by Jane Yolen, The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo, A Pizza the Size of the Sun by Jack

Prelutsky, Bunnica by James Howe, The Borrowers by Mary Norton, Caddie Woodlawn by Carol Ryrie Brink, Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia Maclachlan, Holes by Louis Sachar, The Bad Beginning (a Series of Unfortunate Events) by Lemony Snicket, Bud not Buddy by Christopher Paul Thomas, Joey Pigza Loses Control by Paul Gantos and The Velveteen Rabbit by Marjorie Williams

MUST-HAVE: An elementary dictionary, i.e. Merriam-Webster's Elementary Dictionary, unless one is available online

USEFUL, particularly if no computer is in the home: a basic thesaurus, i.e. Basic English Thesaurus for Elementary and Intermediate Grades by Peter Hodgson Collin; Magazines: *Ranger Rick* or *Cricket*

If there is a computer: ClueFinders Reading Adventures software for ages 9-12

SHOULD BE AVAILABLE: Computer with Internet connection, printer, daily newspaper, writing materials (notebooks, pencils, markers, colored pencils) and drawing paper as interest dictates

Fluent to Independent Readers, ages 11-13:

- Have mastered the basic skills of reading, reading strategies and may be completely independent
- Read more critically with greater comprehension
- Enjoy reading different genres (types of writing) and often have a favorite category that they prefer
- Are able to communicate thoughts, ideas and information through speaking and writing
- May enjoy discussing books they've read and possibly join or form a book group for discussion
- Continue to enjoy reading aloud as a family tradition, though they may say otherwise
- Use all available resources such as dictionaries, encyclopedias, atlases, newspapers, etc.
- Continue to need reading materials in every room of the home
- Are interested in "their place in the world" and where they "fit"

Suggested Books for ages 11-13:

1. A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle
2. Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret by Judy Blume
3. Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson
4. Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls
5. Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell
6. The Black Stallion by Walter Farley
7. The Incredible Journey by Sheila Burnford
8. Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson
9. Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor
(also: Mississippi Bridge by that author)
10. The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare
11. Homeless Bird by Gloria Whelan
12. The View From Saturday by E.L. Konigsburg

Additional Books recommended for ages 11-13: *The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien, Five Children and I by E. Nesbit, Little Women by Louisa May Alcott, The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett,*

One-Eyed Cat by Paula Fox, *The Blue Sword* by Robin McKinley, *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, *Anne of Green Gables* by L.M. Montgomery, *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers or *Sunder* by William H. Armstrong.

Additional Materials Needed for Middle School Students:

MUST-HAVE: *Intermediate Dictionary, if not available online, i.e. Random House Webster's Intermediate English Dictionary; Basic English Thesaurus*

Materials: *Notebooks; pencils; colored pencils; pens; journal/ diary*

Suggested: *ClueFinders Reading Adventures Software (if a computer is available), and IF it was not included in the Kit D; online or World Book Encyclopedia software; Magazines: Teen, Cat/Dog Fancy, AIM American Girl, Boys/Girls Life*

Independent/Advanced Readers: ages 14+ (high school):

- Should keep a reading and writing tradition to become lifelong readers and writers
- Subscribe to magazines, read newspapers, and listen to a variety of music
- Should continue visiting museums, local sites, and cultural events
- May want to keep a journal or diary
- Should continue to have a library card and use it regularly
- Continue learning every day

Suggested Books for 14+ Readers:

1. Meg Cabot books, i.e.
 - a. The Princess Diaries
 - b. Teen Idol
 - c. Avalon High
2. Tangerine by Edward Bloor
3. Breaking Point by Alex Flinn
4. Whirligig by Paul Fleischman
5. The First Part Last by Angela Johnson
6. Kim: Empty Inside: The Diary of an Anonymous Teenager
7. Letters From the Inside by John Marsden
8. Parrot in the Oven: Mi Vida: A Novel by Victor Martinez
9. A Step From Heaven by An Na
10. Star Girl by Jerry Spinelli
11. Behind the Wheel: Poems About Driving by Janet S. Wong

Other Suggestions: *Make Lemonade* by Virginia Euwer Wolff, *Blackwater* by Eve Bunting,