

Reading at Home

Did you know that there is a direct correlation between the number of books read to a child and the child's reading success? Reading aloud to our child is one of the best ways to help your child become a strong reader. Here are some other reasons to read aloud to your child:

- To let your child see literacy skills modeled by family members.
- To positively reinforce literacy skills learned in school.
- To build vocabulary.
- To foster imagination and creativity.
- To enjoy books together and build a warm relationship with each other.
- To build background knowledge.
- To instill a love of lifelong learning.

As you read aloud to your child, keep these tips in mind:

1. Try to read aloud to your child every day.
2. Establish a regular time for reading together. Turn off the television and radio.
3. Share some of your own favorite children's books with your child.
4. Visit the library and help your child look for books that reflect special interests.
5. Remember that listening is a skill that is strengthened the more children are read to. You may want to increase the number of minutes you spend reading with your child each day to reflect these growing skills.
6. If you are reading a longer book to your child and need to break it into segments, always stop at a suspenseful part. You'll both look forward to returning to the story the next time.
7. Talk with your child about what you are reading. Discuss predictions for what will happen next in the story.
8. Vary your reading pace according to the story. (Slow down for suspenseful parts – go ahead and be dramatic!)
9. Respond to your child's questions about the book. You can ask what your child thinks, and share your own ideas.
10. Enjoy the books and the time spent together!

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