

Children Who Are Read To Learn to Read

Read Aloud Tips for Parents, Teachers, and Caregivers

Make reading part of everyday activities. Read at bedtime, on the bus, or while waiting in line at the store, before recess, after lunch, etc.

Make reading fun! Use reading time as a chance to get to know your child (your students) - and for your child to get to know you.

A few minutes at a time is fine! Young children can sit still for a story only a few minutes at a time. As they grow, their attention span will grow.

Talk about and "read" the pictures. You don't have to read the book to tell the story.

Let your child turn the pages. Babies need the thick pages of board books and your help to turn the pages, but by the time of their third birthday, your child will be able to turn pages with little help.

Talk about parts of the book. Show the cover and talk about what the book is about. Talk about the table of contents, index, glossary if there is one.

Show your child the words. Run your fingers along the words as you read. You want your child to learn that there is a relationship to the words you are saying to the words on the page.

Make the story come alive! Use your imagination to make up voices for the characters. Use your body to help tell the story.

Help your child think about what will happen next. Ask questions. What's that? What do you think will happen?

Let your child ask questions about the story.

After you have read the story together several times, let your child tell you the story. "Memorized" reading is an important pre-reading skill.

*Adapted from *Reach Out And Read*, 1995 by
Carole D. Fiore, Training and Library Consulting*