

Reading Aloud

Looking for a proven method to help improve your child's success in school? Look no further - reading aloud to your child is the answer! Sharing a story together develops and improves all literacy skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Not only will your child's language and literacy skills be enhanced, but the simple joy of sharing a story together strengthens parent-child bonds, and gives value to the importance of reading.

It is such a pleasure to share a story with a young child - to hold the book together, to bring the characters to life with the magic of your voice, to enjoy the pictures and to watch a child fall so in love with a book that they can't bear to part with it at bedtime. Similar pleasures can be found reading to older children. Jim Trelease, author of *The Read Aloud Handbook* has this to say about reading to your children as they learn to read on their own:

“Reading aloud is a commercial for reading. ... Think of it this way: McDonald's doesn't stop advertising just because the vast majority of Americans know about its restaurants. Each year it spends more money on ads to remind people how good its products taste. Don't cut your reading advertising budget as children grow older.”

READING IS FUNDAMENTAL, INC., an organization that works to help children discover the joy of reading, makes the following recommendations to parents:

- Make a commitment to **read aloud** at least once a day. It's important to establish a routine.
- Select a time to **read aloud**. It can be anytime – morning, after school, bedtime – but try to make it the same time every day.
- Choose a favorite place to **read aloud**. It can be a bedroom, a living room, or any place you can read together comfortably.
- Remember to **have fun!** The more fun kids have reading aloud, the more they will love books and want to read them.