

Why Share Books with Fours and Fives?

10 Powerful Reasons

- 1 Reading provides an opportunity for a parent and child to spend time together and bond in a positive way.
- 2 Developing a love of books and a positive attitude toward reading occurs naturally when parents demonstrate a love of books and reading.
- 3 Reading to a child nurtures a love for books and reading.
- 4 Reading to children regularly teaches them how to handle books, which is one of the first steps toward literacy. Children learn how to hold a book and how to turn pages, and they learn about the conventions of print (the direction it flows and the purpose of spaces).
- 5 Reading offers rich language experiences. Children who have been spoken to and read to often have larger vocabularies than children who have not been so fortunate.
- 6 Reading books introduces children to fine arts through the variety of media and styles used in illustrations. It also introduces the expression of telling a story through art.
- 7 Reading to young children stimulates their brain development and increases their attention spans.
- 8 Sharing picture books with fours and fives provides opportunities for children to participate verbally through repetition of words and phrases.
- 9 Reading to children increases their vocabularies. Books contain unfamiliar or rare words that are not often heard in everyday speech.
- 10 A child's success in learning to read is linked to his or her early literacy experiences with books. A child who was read to often has a greater vocabulary and enhanced language skills than a child who was not.