

Tips for Reading Aloud

TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

1. Get cozy together. Your child values your company as much as the book you share.
2. Read in your normal voice, but at a slower pace than conversation. Children need time to absorb the ideas and meanings. You can make different voices if you like, but your usual voice is sufficient.
3. Don't interrupt the narrative by asking too many questions as you read. You can go back at the end. Do answer any question your child asks about the story as they arise.
4. Allow your voice to show the emotion of the characters. BE LOUD at the capitals, and breathless or grouchy if the characters are.
5. Your child will have his or her favorite books. Choose those books to share with your child as well as oral stories.
6. Older children will enjoy hearing a few chapters per night from longer books. Have your child summarize what happened the last night before reading the new chapters.
7. Don't stop reading aloud just because your child reads well on his or her own. Your company, your example, and your book choices continue to tell your child how very important you think reading is. What a valuable gift!
8. On nights when a parent is unable to read to your child, use a recorded book from the public library, an e-book reader, or stories from a website like Storyline Online, www.storylineonline.net, StoryNory.com, Tumblebooks.com (public libraries often have access), or Online Books for Free, familyinternet.about.com/od/websites/tp/readbooks_online.htm.

