

TLP Says...

As we are settling back into the groove of the school year, it's helpful to remember the small actions we can take to ensure that our children are avid and successful readers.

Reading aloud at home is one of the easiest ways to work on fluency and comprehension skills. Reading to young children promotes language acquisition and literacy development and, later on, achievement in reading comprehension and overall success in school.

The percentage of young children read aloud to daily by a family member is one indicator of how well young children are prepared for school. A long-term study by the U.S. Department of Education, published in 2000, found that **children who were read to at least three times a week by a family member were almost twice as likely to score in the top 25% in reading** than children who were read to less than three times a

week. Just like physical exercise, there are cumulative benefits when you do something regularly.

As parents and teachers, our goal should be for students to enjoy their experience with reading literature. Providing children with positive experiences in reading will encourage the continuation of independent and pleasure reading. The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2000 National reading assessment of fourth-grade students found that reading for fun had a positive relationship to performance on reading scores. 87% of students who reported reading for fun on their own time once a month or more performed at the proficient level. Students who reported to never or hardly ever read for fun performed at the basic level. Students who read for fun every day scored the highest.

For more info on TLP programs
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Reading aloud with children increases fluency and comprehension levels. To develop comprehension skills with your child, work with them to understand the story structure of texts you read. Discuss the setting, characters, plot and theme of the text. Asking children questions regarding the text helps to focus their attention and think actively. It is equally important to invite your child to ask questions about the text. Proficient readers are not only able to question themselves, but question the author's intent and purpose. After finishing a book, have your child re-tell the story in his or her own words, encouraging him or her to retain the main ideas.

In addition to reading aloud children's literature, share your own enjoyment of reading. Share with your children interesting parts of a book that you are reading or a passage from a magazine or newspaper.

Happy
Reading!

At Home Read Aloud Activities

The best way to get children excited about reading is to read WITH them ... the younger the better. As they get older, it will be important for kids to see YOU reading, too. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- **Create a Family Reading Night**
- **Plan a family adventure to the library.** Kids love adventures, so get them involved. Make plans together, to prepare for and then celebrate the trip to the library. Plan a book party when you get home!
- **Pick Award Winning Books to read together.** Ask TLP staff for a list of award winning books.
- **Make reading a DAILY experience.** When a child is very young, it is the sound of your voice, not the words that they love. Reading with a child (even before they are born) helps you and your child bond, discover new things, and create precious memories, together.

Tips for Reading Aloud with Elementary-School Children

Read aloud so elementary-school children can:

- Continue to associate reading with pleasant feelings;
- Learn about words and language and expand vocabularies;
- Talk about the characters, settings, and plot, then relate them to their own lives;
- Gain knowledge about a variety of topics;
- Become more skilled independent readers;
- Discover which authors and writing styles they like;
- Be motivated to read.



Try these read-aloud tips:

- * Set the stage before you begin reading. Read the title and author of the book. Discuss the cover and predict what this book may be about. Suggest things the children can look for during the story.
- * Take turns reading aloud; for example, each of you can read a page in an easy reader.
- * As you read, reassess the predictions you and your children have made about the plot and characters.
- * Summarize, adapt, or skip parts of books that are too far above a child's level of understanding.
- * Relate a book you are reading to one read in the past. Talk about how they are alike and how they differ.
- * Ask a child to imagine what he or she might do in a situation similar to that faced by a character.
- * Provide materials and activities that let children expand their understanding of a character, historical event, or situation.
- * Talk about what you have read. Books often evoke strong feelings that need to be shared. Offer your reactions and invite a child to do the same.
- * Stop reading at a suspenseful point in the book. This encourages a child to be eager for tomorrow's read-aloud time.
- * After you have finished the book, have children re-tell the story. Question children about the plot, setting, characters and main idea.
- * Extend the story with an activity or another book.

Visit www.rif.org for more tips on reading aloud

Upcoming Events

November 10/17- Love and Logic Workshop in Spanish 6:00 JES
November 11- Parents Involved in Education (PIE) Mtg 12:00 at JES
November 12- Rendezvous PTA Mtg 5:30 at Colter
November 17- "Words their Way" Parent Night- Colter 6:00
November 18- "Words their Way" Parent Night Spanish- St. Johns 6:00

Interested in tutoring or
volunteering at TLP?
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