

Reading Aloud to Children

10 Helpful Hints

TIP 1



Plan Enough Time

- Plan enough time in each session (10 - 15 minutes) to read aloud, to enjoy, and to discuss a story, poem, or information text.

TIP 3



Introduce the Book

- Introduce the book, pointing out the cover illustration, title and author. Invite some predictions or comments that help the listeners connect the book to their own experience or to other books heard or read. Or give a brief explanation about why you chose to read this book.

TIP 5



Allow Time or Children to Study the Pictures

- Allow time for children to study the pictures as you read, and to make comments and ask questions about the story.

TIP 7



Watch the Children's Expressions

- Watch the children's expressions and body language and be sensitive to signs of boredom or confusion; you may need to change your reading plan, change the book or do more preparation.

TIP 9



Listening to a Story can be a New Experience

- Remember that for some children, listening to stories is a new experience, and they need to develop that interest and ability.

TIP 2



Preview the Book Yourself

- Preview the book yourself, so you can anticipate questions or reactions. If possible, practice reading it through so you can decide where to pause for emphasis or to elicit questions, predictions or reactions.

TIP 4



Read with Expression

- Read with expression that reflects the tone of the story or the characters. And not too fast. Vary your pace so you can pause for emphasis, or to allow time for child(ren) to think about what's happening or what might come next.

TIP 6



Encourage Predictions

- Encourage predictions, and then help children confirm or revise these as the story unfolds. Try to honor many ideas and interpretations, not just the "correct" ones.

TIP 8



Save Time for Reactions

- Ask open-ended questions that don't have right or wrong answers, and that can't be answered with a yes or no reply.

TIP 10



Encourage Discussion about the Story

- Ask the child questions about what's going on, and encourage the child to predict what will come next -- but be sure not to turn a discussion into a quiz!