



Reading Aloud with Kindergartners and Primary School Children

READ ALOUD so kindergartners and primary school children can

- continue to associate reading with warm, pleasant feelings; learn about words and language; build listening skills; expand vocabularies; talk about the characters, settings, and plot then relate them to their own lives; gain knowledge about a variety of topics.
- gain exposure to a variety of writing styles and structures.
- explore social and moral issues and behaviors.
- become more skilled independent readers.
- discover which authors and writing styles they like.
- be motivated to read on their own.
- have fun!

Choose books kindergartners and primary school children like

- Children are becoming independent readers. Read easy readers that they can reread on their own.
- Children are expanding their language skills, vocabulary, and attention spans. Read chapter books with developed characters, plot twists, and descriptive language.
- Children are learning to monitor their own behavior. Read longer picture books and chapter books with messages about how to handle problems and cope with difficulties.
- Children are curious about the world beyond their immediate experiences. Read information books on topics related to their interests.
- Children sometimes identify with characters and situations. Read series books featuring the same characters having new experiences.
- Children begin to pay attention to current events. Read junior versions of popular magazines, such as

Sports Illustrated for Kids, and topical magazines written for children, such as *Ranger Rick*.

- Children develop special interests, preferred types of books, and favorite authors. Read some books that match the child's preferences—mysteries, science fiction, adventure stories, anything by Lemony Snicket—and some you love that will introduce something or someone new.

Try these ideas

- Use the tips for younger children that are also appropriate for this age group.
- Set the stage before you begin reading. Discuss what you read yesterday and what might happen next.
- Defer questions until after you finish reading—unless the answer is critical to understanding what's happening. Asking children to hold their questions helps them get fully engaged in listening to a story.
- 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 own reactions and invite a child to do the same.
- Stop reading the book at a suspenseful point so children will be eager for tomorrow's read-aloud time.

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