



Let's Make Family
Reading Time Fun!

7 Tips for Reading Aloud Time

1 Pretend!

When you pretend to do the actions that the characters are doing (and really ham it up!), you are helping your children build their “mind’s eye” so that they will be able to make up pictures in their mind when reading chapter books (books without pictures) on their own later on.

2 Make Sound Effects!

When you use your voice and body language to make sound effects (like loud squishy slurping noises when the character is walking through mud in his boots), it makes the book reading a delight, and helps your children learn new words (e.g., “slurping”).

Have a Conversation!

3

It's not the book that matters; it's the conversation you have while reading it that counts! Instead of asking your child questions all of the time, try making **COMMENTS** about what you see (e.g., I would **LOVE** to go to France!). And **WONDER!** (E.g., I wonder what...). Saying, "I wonder..." often gets great conversations going.

4

Point to Words!

While research tells us that this is the **EASIEST** thing we can do to help children understand about print, it is the thing we do the **LEAST!** Point to words that stand out (like words in bold, or words with different fonts), & point to sentences that repeat throughout the story.

5

Relate the Story to Your Child's Life!

When you relate the story to something that your child knows about, it makes the storyline and characters easier to understand, and helps make our conversations more interesting and fun too (e.g. Remember when we...?!)

6

Talk about how Characters are Feeling!

When we talk about how characters are feeling, or **WHY** they may be doing what they are doing, we help children build **EMPATHY** – the ability to understand and care about how someone else is feeling.

7

Learn New Words!

Children's books contain 50% more rare or unique words in them than does the conversation of 2 university graduates. Explain & describe words that may be new for your child (e.g., valuable). Show your children how **YOU** have to look up the meaning of words too!