

Tips for Reading Aloud

Reading to children is one of the best things we can do to develop literacy, comprehension, and critical thinking skills. And, it's a fun activity to do together!

Here are a few tips to make the most of reading aloud - specifically if you're going to video yourself for #TogetherWeRead, #SaveWithStories and @savewithstories - and helpful reminders for whenever you read to a child!

1. Introduce yourself (Hi, I'm (first name) and I live in (location). I'm excited to be reading this story with you today - it's one of my favorites because...)
2. Introduce the book - Say the book title, the author (and the illustrator!)
3. Mention something about the cover or the title. Mention something about it that makes you wonder or reminds you about, or something you have done. (That's quite a crazy bicycle! I love to ride bikes, do you? Let's see what happens.)
4. Read the story - use expression (voices for characters), vary your pace (slower for emphasis, quicker when things are exciting) if that's comfortable for you. Don't worry if you misread a word or a sentence - just go back and reread it (Rereading is a great strategy to model for young readers - if readers misread or don't understand something the first time, they read it again).
5. Show the pictures to reinforce the message of the text. Take your time so the child can make connections between what they heard and what they thought about (this gives the child time to confirm or correct understanding and developing critical thinking skills).
6. Once or twice, comment on the story or the pictures. Verbalize a thought that comes to you. This is modeling what effective readers do: actively thinking about the text. (Look at that chicken riding the bike - I hope she doesn't fall! I wonder what will happen next! Wow, I didn't expect that to happen!)
7. Briefly comment on the ending. What surprised you about the story? Was there something about the character that you admired? (Nandi was such a good friend to share the fruit with her friends).
8. Thank the listener. (Thanks for listening, I hope you enjoyed this story as much as I enjoyed reading it).



Enjoy the experience - be natural! Choose a story that you enjoy - for the message, the humor, or the illustrations! Use these tips as they work for you - don't worry if you don't use them! Just by reading aloud, you are sharing the amazing gift of literacy -and caring!