Read Me a Book

Guideline for reading aloud
to raise my child
to become a better reader



National Library for Children and Young Adults
Republic of Korea



Guideline for reading aloud
to raise my child to become a better reader

Read me a Book

▸ Promotional video

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Reading aloud, a lifelong gift for your child

Do you want your children to like reading?
Is it difficult for you to guide your children to enjoy reading?

Reading aloud is the first step in reading (education).
Just reading aloud to your children can make them think and imagine profoundly.

Reading aloud can help children become book lovers and realize the virtue of going hand-in-hand, as well as the joy of life.

If you pile the books to read mountain-high, children might lose their confidence and interest in reading.

You might be able to experience the joy of reading together with your children when reading good books aloud.

Reading aloud is a lifelong gift for your children.

Read aloud!

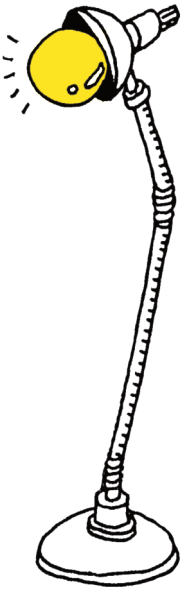
Reading aloud is

an activity to read vocabularies or sentences aloud as exactly they are written.

By listening, children will concentrate on the book and get lost in their imagination by making up their own images.

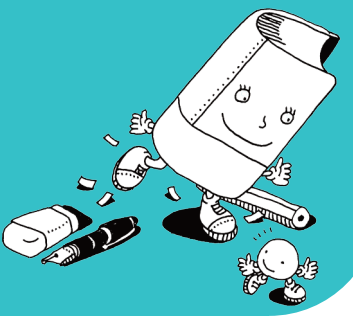
Reading aloud can make children by themselves fully experience the story.

Reading good books aloud and talking with the children is the best way to be familiar with the books.



‘Why read aloud?’

01



- A child gets emotionally stabled, if someone reads to him/her.
- A child can increase the interest and curiosity toward books, imagination, concentration and expressive language skills.
- Reading aloud makes the story more comprehensible and provides a variety of language experiences.
- If a child reads alone, the child tends to get busy trying to understand the contents, while if a child listens to the story, the child can experience the story.
- A child will get the power of discovering new facts, and feel and think deeply.
- Reading aloud is the best way to communicate with your child.

"I am so excited that I could listen to the book I have picked."

"It was even easier to understand the story by listening to it."

"Reading alone is no fun,
but listening to the story is very interesting."

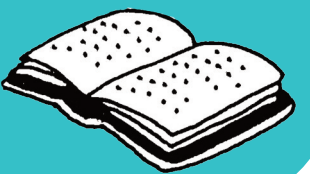
"Listening is way better than reading."



Quotes by children who joined the Reading Children Group 'Fairy Tale Friends'

‘How to read aloud’

02



- Read aloud as it is, not changing or abbreviating the story.
- Read aloud with natural tone, without overstatement or exaggeration.
- Check the child's age, preference and interest before choosing the books that fit for your child.
- Good books and favorite books should be read aloud several times.
- It is necessary for children to open their mind first, so that they can be interested in books.
- For children who are not interested in books, make eye contacts while reading aloud.
- After reading aloud, introduce the book to the children so they can get familiar with the book.
- The most important thing is to read aloud steadily, and never give up.

Storytelling

By repeating the stories, same stories can be told in several versions which creates excitement, and you can share emotions with your children through direct communication. Narrators in recorded storytelling can tell the story with dramatic expressions, but children can't interact with narrators and their emotions will be excluded. On this kind of circumstances, it is hard to encourage imagination. Tell fairy tales, your life stories, or even your daily life for bedtime stories. A child who loves stories likes books too.



Reading aloud at home

- Hold your child in your arms and read aloud slowly.
- Read aloud anytime whenever your child wants.
- Let the family members read aloud to one another.
- Get a bookshelf only for your child and help them fill it with favorite books.
- Share the joy of reading with your child while being emotionally stable.

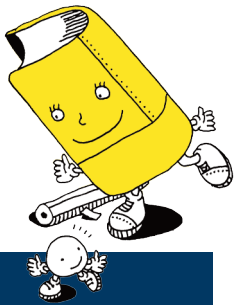


Reading aloud at school

- Read aloud in classrooms in the morning, right before class, or at a library in the afternoon at a regular time.
- Read aloud a variety of books including picture books, nursery stories, fairy tales and children's poems.
- In case of long books, divide the story into several parts.
- Give opportunities to children to introduce good books to their peers.
- Place the books that are read aloud on the class bookshelf so children can read them again.

Reading aloud at a library

- Join the 'Read Me a Book' program held at the library.
- Let the children choose their own books.
- Organize a reading group so children can read and share thoughts constantly.



Liberty to choose their own books

Are you choosing books to read aloud to your children that teaches letters; that teaches lessons to prevent problematic behaviors such as beating their siblings, fighting with friends, swearing; that help overcome their fears? These kind of books are no fun for children. Children like to do everything on their own. This is applied to when they choose books. Respect your children's choice, even they pick books that has been already read, that are similar to the previous ones, that are too easy or too difficult to read.

‘Choosing the right book’

03





Babies to toddlers (Ages 0–3)

Babies get emotional stability just from an adult's voice. Even though they are illiterate, they learn basic things as reading along the story when an adult is reading. Spend a lot of time on playing with them as looking at each other, and help them consider the book as a game to turn over the pages.

Picture books with imitating sounds and mimetic words
Books to enjoy the feeling and rhythm of words by repetition
Peekaboo games, body games, word games, children's songs and poems, picture books of objects

- Babies handle the books as a toy. Fabric books with round corners are recommended.
- If your child loses interest and gets easily distracted, it is necessary to check how your child feels about the book.
- If your child asks you to read the same book repeatedly, always say yes. Children learn through repetition.

Preschoolers (Ages 4–7)

Preschoolers are often attracted to the surroundings and start to show interest in letters. They tend to express their own thoughts all the time, traveling back and forth between reality and fantasy. They may be illiterate, but they can read by making up stories. Your compliment and encouragement can make your children get along with books.

Picture books with great presentation on world of imagination
Old fairy tales that teaches the virtues of justice and courage
Cognitive picture books that children can learn about surrounding objects and develop social nature

- The child might be obsessed with books about dinosaur, automobile and princess. It is important to respect the child's choice, so he/she can enjoy the book at the most.
- When the child starts to ask more questions and tries to turn over the pages by oneself, let them willingly join the reading aloud with you.
- Pointing out letters while reading might distract the child from focusing. Help them concentrate on the stories rather than letters.



Lower elementary (Ages 8–10)

Children in this age group are able to read. They can read themselves or parents can insist them to read books to improve academic achievement. Extreme results can be shown regarding children's attitudes toward books; like or dislike books, influenced by how they experience reading. It is crucial to read aloud to children steadily, so they can enjoy books.

Books about adventure and fantasy
Books that introduce attractive characters
Books that stimulates curiosity and imagination

- Encourage your child to enjoy the stories, even he/she is not able to read letters yet.
- Read any book your child chooses. Even the book is too easy or have been read many times.
- Help your child read aloud by oneself in slow pace.
- Recommend a book that can stimulate curiosity and present pleasure of discovery.
- Respect the child's choice of books so he/she feel familiar with books.

Higher elementary (Ages 11–13)

Children ages 11-13 show progress in reading speed and start to realize the taste of reading. They tend to show interest in relationships and read books in a variety of fields such as science, history, society and arts. They also tend to concentrate on digital devices and relationship with friends, while having less time to read due to the increase in the amount of academic learning. Also, children who enter the stage of adolescence earlier than others refuse to read aloud and act sensitively to adult's advices.

Books that depict a variety of characters and events
Books that contain knowledge and information of children's interest
Poems and picture books that bring up artistic sensitivity
Books that provide an opportunity to think about social issues

- Spend lots of time talking with your child's interest and continue to read together
- For a thick book, constantly read aloud little by little on a daily basis, and your children are likely to be confident in reading.

- If children tend to dislike books, you need to check if your child is burdened with overstudy.





Reading phase by age groups

As children grow up in different paces, they get interested in books in different period. There is no such thing as determined reading phases nor required books by different age groups. There are so many collections of books out there that are claimed to be essential in terms of learning. However, if you try to purchase too many books based on this belief, children will think of reading as homework. For children, overflowed knowledge might do more harm than good. Experiencing one book in-depth is better than reading hundred books.

‘Guideline
for reading aloud’

04





Before reading

- Practice reading aloud first before starting.
- Check where to pause, where to take a break, and read aloud with exact pronunciation and proper volume.
- Read aloud when your child asks for.
- Read loud the book that is chosen by your child prior to anything else.
- Read aloud when you and your child feel comfortable and relaxed.
- Read aloud to your child starting from during pregnancy until even the child becomes a teenager.



While reading aloud

- Read aloud exactly it is written.
- Do not overstate or exaggerate when reading aloud.
- Do not abbreviate the story, and read the whole story.
- Read aloud picture books, fairy tales, poems and old stories.
- Make eye contact when reading old stories, traditional children's songs and poems.

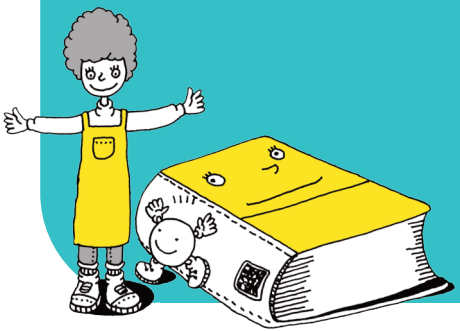
- It is okay to let your child ask questions in the middle of reading and be unfocused and move around.
- Do not point out the letters while reading aloud.
- Stop reading when your child closes the book.



After reading

- Do not talk about the book after reading, let your child experience joy of reading from the story itself.
- Do not force your child to express feelings or guide them writing after reading.
- Always say yes to your child, even they come with the same book many times.
- Do not force them to read various kinds of books or interfere with their reading.
- You may get an eye for a good book by writing down children's quotes or response.

‘Small actions’



05

At home

- Try reducing the use of digital devices in front of your child.
- Turn off the TV and read aloud.
- Visit the bookstore and pick a book together with your child.
- Let children have more free time.
- Visit libraries together with your child.

At school

- Place good books instead of academic books on classroom bookshelves.
- It is okay for teachers to read aloud to students in classrooms.
- After reading, create a chance to share thoughts with other people.
- Hold events to encourage children as readers.

At a library

- Get a membership for you and your child.
- Request books that are on your wish list.
- Join the 'Read Me a Book' program at the library.
- Help your child go through the lending service.

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