

# Read aloud to build your child's listening skills and memory

Even if your child knows how to read, it's helpful for you to continue reading aloud to him.

Reading aloud gives your child important quality time with you—and it exposes him to ideas, concepts and vocabulary he might not get otherwise. Each time you read together, you add to his storehouse of knowledge and strengthen his reading comprehension skills.

To boost your child's vocabulary skills as you read, define words he doesn't know. Then ask if he can think of words that have a similar or opposite meaning.

From time to time, see if your child can figure out the meaning of an unknown word by how it's used in a sentence. Give examples of how the word might be used in other contexts. For example, note how the word sign can be a noun (Look at the stop sign) or a verb (Please sign your name here).

As you read, you can also help your child strengthen other skills, such as:

- **Listening and speaking.** After you've read a passage, have your child tell you what he heard. Ask specific questions—What did ... do? Why? Where ... ? How ... ? What color was ... ?
- **Memory.** Don't just start reading where you left off in a book the night before. First ask your child to recall where you were in the story.
- **Word recognition.** Stop reading periodically. Ask your child to read a sentence or two to you. Help him sound out new words. Then have him read the sentences again.

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