

# Seven strategies can make your family read-aloud time a success

Some parents stop reading aloud as soon as their children learn to read. But reading aloud can continue to be fun, and it builds reading skills, too.

To make your read-aloud time successful:

1. Do it every day. When you read aloud daily, you demonstrate that reading time is much too important to miss.
2. Pick a regular time. When reading is already part of your daily routine, you won't have to think about trying to fit it into a hectic day. Choose a time when your child will be most receptive, such as after playing outside or before bed.
3. Read the book first—before you read it aloud. Reading aloud is performing. You'll do a better job if you're familiar with what you're going to read. Previewing a book may also keep you from getting bogged down in a book that neither you nor your child enjoys.
4. Read books you like. If you like a book, odds are your child will, too. Start by reading books you enjoyed as a child. Often, your enjoyment will be contagious!
5. Accentuate the first line. The first line of any good story will grab the reader's attention. Your reading should make your child want to sit up and listen.
6. Use facial expressions. Widen your eyes to show surprise. Squint a bit to show you're thinking.
7. Leave your child wanting more. Stop your day's reading at a point where you are both eager to hear what happens next.

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