



READ ALOUD TIPS

- Allow your reading buddy a few minutes to **settle down** and adjust her feet and mind to the story. Mood is an important factor in listening. An authoritarian “Now stop that and settle down!” doesn’t create a receptive mood.
- Position yourself comfortably **side by side** with your reading buddy, so that the book can be shared.
- Before you begin to read, always **recite the title of the book**, the author and the illustrator. The message is that books are not created by machines, but by people.
- The first time you read a book, **discuss the cover illustrations**. Ask your reading buddy, “What do you think this book is going to be about?” Get a sense of what is to come by paging through the book without reading it.
- Remember: **The art of listening** is an acquired one. It must be taught and cultivated. Vary the length and subject matter of your readings, both fiction and nonfiction.
- Choose **books at your reading buddy’s listening level** which is higher than her reading level. This helps to challenge her mind and increase both vocabulary and listening comprehension, while further solidifying literacy skills.
- Encourage involvement by occasionally asking, “What do you think is going to happen next?” **Predicting** is higher level thinking. Invite your reading buddy to turn pages for you when it is time.
- Use plenty of **expression** when reading. If possible, change your tone of voice to fit the dialogue. Adjust your **pace** to fit the story. For example, during a suspenseful part slow down and lower your voice.
- The most common mistake in reading aloud is reading too fast. **Read slowly enough** for your reading buddy to build mental pictures of what she just heard you read. Slow down enough for her to see the pictures in the book without feeling hurried.
- Allow time for discussion. Thoughts, hopes, fears and discoveries are aroused by a book. **Ask questions:** *What was the book about? Did you like it? Why or why not? What surprised you? What new information did you learn from reading it? What kind of book should we read next?* Ask your reading buddy to ask you a question!