

Reading Aloud to Children

Why and How?

“The more you **read**
the more **things** you know.
The more that you **learn**
the more **places** you’ll go.”
-Dr. Seuss

Why read a story to your child?

As well as bringing a great deal of pleasure, reading aloud provides a number of opportunities and benefits for children of all ages, from strengthening vocabulary to increasing attention span. Below are seven reasons why reading aloud should be a regular part of a child's reading experience.

1. Develops stronger vocabulary

Children acquire language primarily through listening. Reading aloud lets children regularly hear new words in new contexts, which builds their vocabulary and helps them develop a stronger awareness of the communicative possibilities of language.

2. Builds connections between the spoken and written word

When children hear words read aloud, they begin seeing how printed words are closely connected to spoken words. This helps them recognise the difference between the arrangement of spoken language and printed text.

3. Provides enjoyment

Children generally enjoy being read to, which encourages them to see and experience reading as something fun and positive. Reading aloud makes them more likely to become interested in learning to read, which is likely to then spark a lifelong love of reading.

4. Increases attention span

Unlike watching television, reading or being read to promotes a slower unfolding of events and ideas. This encourages children to listen, pay attention and concentrate, which after a while can increase their overall attention span.

5. Strengthens cognition

A well written book exposes children to sophisticated language, which can strengthen their cognitive abilities. When children are regularly exposed to the sophisticated language of quality literature, they learn how to apply their cognitive abilities to understand the text.

6. Provides a safe way of exploring strong emotions

Reading a story aloud that explores particular emotions helps some children to accept their own feelings and understand how others feel. By reading aloud together, stories can help children feel more comfortable discussing their emotions with others.

7. Promotes bonding

Reading aloud with children provides benefits for adults too. The quality time spent together promotes bonding and strengthens relationships, making

At Headlands, children in EYFS and Years One and Two bring home two books each week.

One is for your child to read to you. The purpose of this book is to allow your child to 'show off' their reading fluency and prosody; thus building confidence as a reader. These books are clearly identifiable by the gold star sticker on the front cover. These books have been carefully chosen so that your child can decode at least 90% of the words unsupported.

The other book has been chosen independently by your child and may contain words they are not yet able to read. The purpose of this 'share with me/read to me' book is to encourage reading for pleasure. It is for you to read to or share with your child and talk about together. These books have a smiley face sticker on the front cover.

How to read a story to your child






When reading any book with your child, the key to unlocking comprehension is posing questions and discussing what you've read. Questions unlock thinking and discussing the pictures, predicting what might happen next, using different voices for different characters, thinking about character's personalities and relating the books to their own lives are all fantastic ways to work on comprehension. Exploring a range of non-fiction texts is also invaluable for the children's knowledge and understanding of the world.

We hope the following information will help you to make the most of whenever you share a book with your child, whether it be their 'reading for pleasure' book, a story shared after a visit to the library or their bedtime story.

Beforehand:








If you can find the time, read the read-aloud book to yourself first so you can think about how you're going to read it to your child.

On the first reading:

-  Make reading aloud feel like a treat. Make it a special quiet time and sit together so you can both see the book.
-  Show curiosity about what you're going to read: 'This book looks interesting. It's about an angry child. I wonder how angry he gets...'
-  Read through the whole story the first time without stopping too much. Let the story weave its own magic.
-  Read with enjoyment. If you're not enjoying it, your child won't.
-  Read favourite stories over and over again.

On later readings:

-  Let your child pause, think about and comment on the pictures.

-  If you think your child did not understand something, try to explain: 'Oh! I think what's happening here is that...'
-  Chat about the story and pictures: 'I wonder why she did that?'; 'Oh no, I hope she's not going to...'; 'I wouldn't have done that, would you?'
-  Link the stories to your own family experiences: 'This reminds me of when ...'
-  Link stories to others that your child knows: 'Ah! Do you remember the dragon in? Do you remember what happened to him?'
-  Encourage your child to join in with the bits they know.
-  Avoid asking questions to test what your child remembers.
-  Avoid telling children that reading stories is good for them.

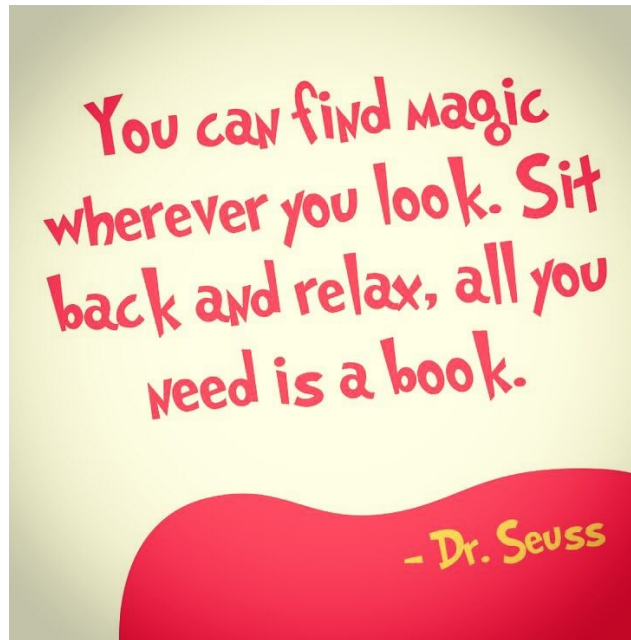
The following tips are taken from the Department for Education document '10 Top Tips for Parents to Support Children to Read'

- 1. Encourage your child to read:** Reading helps your child's wellbeing, develops imagination and has educational benefits too. Just a few minutes a day can have a big impact on children of all ages.
- 2. Read aloud regularly:** Try to read to your child every day. It's a special time to snuggle up and enjoy a story. Stories matter and children love re-reading them and poring over the pictures. Try adding funny voices to bring characters to life.
- 3. Encourage reading choice:** Give children lots of opportunities to read different things in their own time - it doesn't just have to be books. There's fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comics, magazines, recipes and much more. Try leaving interesting reading material in different places around the home and see who picks it up.
- 4. Read together:** Choose a favourite time to read together as a family and enjoy it. This might be everyone reading the same book together, reading different things at the same time, or getting your children to read to each other. This time spent reading together can be relaxing for all.
- 5. Create a comfortable environment:** Make a calm, comfortable place for your family to relax and read independently or together.
- 6. Make use of your local library:** Libraries in England have now re-opened after Covid-19 so visit them when you're able to and explore all sorts of reading ideas. Local libraries also offer brilliant online materials, including audiobooks and eBooks to borrow. Visit 'Libraries Connected' at www.librariesconnected.org.uk/page/librariesfromhome for more digital library services and resources.
- 7. Talk about books:** This is a great way to make connections, develop understanding and make reading even more enjoyable. Start by discussing the front cover and talking about what it reveals and suggests the book could be about. Then talk about what you've been reading and share ideas. You could discuss something that happened that surprised you, or something new that you found out. You could talk about how the book makes you feel and whether it reminds you of anything.

8. Bring reading to life: You could try cooking a recipe you've read together. Would you recommend it to a friend? Alternatively, play a game where you pretend to be the characters in a book, or discuss an interesting article you've read.

9. Make reading active: Play games that involve making connections between pictures, objects and words, such as reading about an object and finding similar things in your home. You could organise treasure hunts related to what you're reading. Try creating your child's very own book by using photos from your day and adding captions.

10. Engage your child in reading in a way that suits them: You know your child best and you'll know the best times for your child to read. If they have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) then short, creative activities may be the way to get them most interested. If English is an additional language, encourage reading in a child's first language, as well as in English. What matters most is that they enjoy it.



We very much hope you have found the information and advice within this leaflet useful. If you have any questions regarding your child's progress in reading or require further advice on how to overcome barriers to reading at home, please contact your child's class teacher through the usual channels.

Book Recommendations: Useful websites


<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/100-best-books/>

<https://www.worldbookday.com/reading-recommendations/>

<https://www.schoolreadinglist.co.uk/category/reading-lists-for-ks1-school-pupils/>

<https://www.waterstones.com/category/childrens-teenage>

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/key-stage-book-lists>

Everyone is a
READER
some just
haven't found
their favorite
book yet 

How to CHOOSE a book!



Look!
Browse the bookshelves – it's a good idea to have a good look at the books.

Check out the COVER!
Does it look interesting? What is the title? Who is the author? Is it like books you've tried before?

READ the blurb!
The blurb is the short paragraph on the back of the cover and tells you something about the story. What does the blurb tell you? Does it make you want to read it?

Think about the GENRE!
This is the type of story found in the book. This could be comedy, adventure or fantasy! What other kinds of stories have you enjoyed?

TRY it out
Read a few pages of the book. Do you want to know what happens next? It's fine to put it back if it doesn't feel right.

ASK
...the school librarian, teachers, parents and your friends to recommend a book!

Whilst we are all passionate about reading at headlands, the following members of Staff have particular roles and responsibilities in ensuring reading at headlands Primary school is the best it can be.

Meet the Team

Mrs Pearce: English Subject Leader

Mr Park: Phonics champion

Miss Cattley: READING CHAMPION

