

Active Read Alouds

Reading aloud with your children can be a great time for talking, relaxing, and just being together. Here are several ideas to get a read-aloud discussion going:

- Help your children check their understanding of what they're reading. Try asking, "Does that make sense to you?" or commenting, "This part sounds important. I'm going to read it aloud again."
- Encourage your youngsters to think about what they read with questions like, "Do you think that could really happen?" or "What do you think the author wants us to learn?"
- Connect the story to other ideas. For example, say, "Does that character's reaction remind you of anything?" or discuss similarities between the story and a person or event in your child's life.
- Predicting is a great way to build comprehension. Ask, "What do you think this part of the story is about?" or "I wonder what would happen if...?"
- Share the enjoyment of language by pointing out words that are fun to say. You'll show your children that language can be very powerful.
- Finally, value your youngsters' comments. You could say, "That's what I was thinking!" or "Now I see what you're saying."



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