

# Read Aloud Tips

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1. Select a book for read aloud
  - a. Choose books with vivid pictures, a strong story line, engaging characters, and evocative language. Humorous and predictable books are particularly successful. Always select a book that you personally enjoy. Caution: remember the maturity of your audience. Some picture books are just too long for a traditional read aloud.
  - b. Preview the book before you read it with the group so you know the story and can anticipate questions or reactions.
  - c. Practice reading the book to gauge the desired pacing, parts to emphasize and voices to utilize. Practice with another adult and elicit their feedback. Maybe even practice in front of a mirror.
2. If possible, specify an area in your classroom for storytimes. You might want to create a special "Storytime Magic carpet" that is rolled out only for storytime.
3. Introduce the book by noting the author and title and ask leading questions that might predict the story or connect to their lives. You might give a brief explanation about why you selected the book.
4. Read with expression, be enthusiastic and have fun with character voices. Don't read too fast, except when you really need to speed the story. Vary your pace and volume.
5. Physically present the book so all the audience can see the illustrations. Keep the book illustrations in front of the audience as you turn the pages. Allow the children time to study the illustrations, make comments, and answer questions. Teach them about "seeing" the visual details in the story. Caution: too many breaks in the story and you can lose the flow and momentum of the story.
6. Seek for interaction! Have the children repeat a key phrase or sound effect.
7. Make eye contact with your audience. (Which means you have to be familiar with the story) Watch the children and gauge their reactions so that you can make adjustments as necessary.
8. Save time at the conclusion for questions, comments and reactions. Ask open ended questions. Point out your favorite parts of the book. Encourage discussion.
9. Most importantly - have a good time! I said that before didn't I...