

YOUNG READERS

Building

Reading Comprehension in

Kindergarten



Help Your Child Enjoy and Understand What is Read

Reading out loud is sometimes simply called a read-aloud. This type of reading is one of the most important things parents and teachers can do with children. A read-aloud builds important foundational skills, introduces vocabulary, provides a model of fluent, expressive reading, and helps children recognize what reading for enjoyment is all about.

Reading for enjoyment is a great activity to add to your daily routine. When children read for enjoyment, they are motivated to participate and want to know more. That is an opportunity for you to help strengthen your child's understanding of new words, ideas and stories. Asking simple questions about the characters and talking about the best parts of a book gets your child thinking about the story and making connections to their own life.

A read-aloud is great for showing children the joys of reading! When children are given the opportunity to listen to someone read, or to read out loud to someone else, they share an experience that helps them build their understanding, or comprehension, through meaningful conversations.

When you and your child **Read-Aloud**

Help your child do these things:

- ✓ Practice good reading behaviors
- ✓ Identify words that rhyme
- ✓ Read common words such as (the, of, you, are, she, and my)
- ✓ Ask and answer questions about a story
- ✓ Name the characters, locations, and major events in the story
- ✓ Recognize the person, place, thing, or idea from an illustration
- ✓ Participate in discussions and take turns speaking
- ✓ Express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly

SKILLS FOR YOUNG READERS

Reading comprehension is the ability to understand what is read. For young readers this means not only knowing how to read the words, but figuring out what the words mean.

Select books with **repetitive words** that focus on topics your child enjoys and read each one multiple times. Repetition encourages comprehension.

While you read, help your child **make connections** to their self, other books, and their world.

Ask questions about the story and encourage your child to **visualize** the story.

Reread stories together.

Describe the pictures to link the words to what your child sees.

Ask your child to think about what happened before or guess what happens next.

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When you communicate with your child's teachers you may hear these words. Knowing these words may help you ask informed questions about your child's strengths and areas in need of improvement.



Check for Understanding

Sample guided questions to ask **before, during, and after** reading

Questions to Ask **BEFORE** Reading:

- Is this title a good title for this book? Why or why not?
- What do you think this book is about?
- What do you think will happen in this story?
- Do you think this story is real or make believe?

Questions to Ask **DURING** Reading:

- What do you think is going to happen next by looking at the pictures?
- Tell me about how the characters feel in this story?
- What do you think will happen next in the story based on what you already know?
- How do you think the story will end?

Questions to Ask **AFTER** Reading:

- Did you like this book? Why or why not?
- What happened in this story?
- Did you have a favorite character? What did you like about them?
- What is something new you have learned from reading this book?
- Did you have a favorite part and why or why not?
- How could you change the ending?
- How is something in this book like something in your life?
- Can you tell me the story in your own words?



Activating Background Knowledge allows

readers to link their past experiences with new facts and ideas in the information they read.

Predicting connects existing knowledge to new information and allows readers to imagine, anticipate, and get meaning from what they read.

Visualizing is when readers imagine or make mental images about what they read so they can make sense of developments or events in the text.

Summarizing allows readers to gather the important ideas in a text and use their own words to create a clear, shorter explanation of what they read.

ONLINE RESOURCES

- ✓ The SAG-AFTRA Foundation's award-winning children's literacy website, Storyline Online, streams videos featuring celebrated actors reading children's books <https://www.storylineonline.net/>
- ✓ This magazine is aimed at young readers who want to explore and discover the world around them <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>
- ✓ Database of children's e-books, available by subscription to public libraries [HTTPS://TUMBLEBOOKS.COM/](https://tumblebooks.com/) [HTTPS://WWW.WORLDBOOKDAY.COM/](https://www.worldbookday.com/)
- ✓ World Book Day is a registered charity that provides digital books <https://www.worldbookday.com/>
- ✓ Offered by your local public library that allows you to borrow and enjoy books digitally. <https://www.hoopladigital.com/>
- ✓ *PBS KIDS* resources to support your child's learning every day: <https://pbskids.org/>