



Reading Aloud: Ideas for Parents

Tips on Reading Aloud with Your Toddler

- **Make reading part of every day.** Read at bedtime or on the bus.
- **Have fun.** Children who love books learn to read. Books can be part of special time with your child.
- **A few minutes is OK.** Young children can only sit for a few minutes for a story, but as they grow, they'll sit longer.
- **Talk about the pictures.** You don't have to read the book to tell a story.
- **Let your child turn the pages.** Babies need board books and help to turn pages, but your toddler might be able to do it alone!
- **Show your child the cover page.** Explain what the story is about.
- **Show your child the words.** Run your finger along the words as you read them.
- **Make the story come alive!** Make up voices; use your body to tell the story.
- **Ask questions about the story.** What's going to happen next? What's that?
- **Let your child ask questions about the story.** Children as young as toddlers can memorize parts of a story.

(adapted from Reach Out and Read, 1995)

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