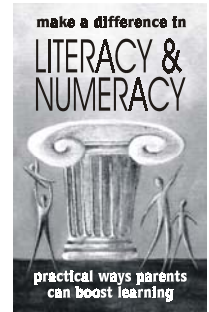


Reading aloud is a family affair

For students in the primary and junior grades



Why read aloud?

"The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children." (Trelease, 2001, pg. 2; originally from a commission entitled *Becoming a Nation of Readers*)

Choosing the right book

When choosing books to read with your child, ask yourself the following:



- What is my child's age and what is he interested in?
- Do the illustrations and story line avoid stereotypes (e.g. sexism, racism)?
- Are the illustrations appropriate and appealing?
- Is the text at or above her reading ability?
- Is the page setup well designed?
- Can he relate to issues raised in the book?
- Does the book contain Canadian content? Is the author or illustrator Canadian?

Create an enjoyable reading experience for your child

Sometimes your child will read to you. Here's how you can make the experience productive and fun:

- Sit somewhere comfortable
- Create a routine
- Be as enthusiastic and focused as possible
- Reward all efforts
- Listen lots – talk less
- For difficult words, use prompts, then tell
- Anticipate mistakes and offer praise when the child attempts to fix them

- Relax – if things are not going well, set the book aside and do something else (adapted from Scarborough Board Of Education, 1997)

Reading with Expression

"We can do at least seven things with our voices to keep our listeners engaged. Six of these seven vocal gymnastics are contrasts: loud and soft, fast and slow, and high and low. And we can p-a-u-s-e." (Fox, 2001, pg. 42)

- A loud or soft voice can be used to emphasize certain parts or to differentiate character's voices.
- A slow voice is best used for the darkest moments in a book.
- A fast voice, needless to say, is for the speedier parts of the text, or for any section filled with excitement and drama.
- The high voice, as with the fast voice, can also be used in moments of great excitement or drama.
- Low voices are terrific for frightening parts of a story or for voices that should be low, like the voices of pirates or giants.
- The pause can be a great effect to use before a dramatic mood change in the story or if there is an obvious pause in a character's speech.

Related web sites

For additional information on the importance of and suggestions for reading aloud to your child, check out these web sites:

- www.memfox.com
- www.trelease-on-reading.com
- www.todaysparent.com



- [www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/brochure/
parguide.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/brochure/parguide.pdf)

This tip sheet was prepared by Lynn Bristoll, Resource Teacher, and Adam Peer, Equity Resource Officer.