Engage Early Readers for Lifelong Learning

By the age of 2, children who are read to regularly display greater language comprehension, larger vocabularies, and higher cognitive skills than their peers.¹

Children’s early vocabulary skills are linked to their economic backgrounds. By 3 years of age, there is a 30 million word gap between children from the wealthiest and poorest families.²

34 percent of children entering Kindergarten lack the basic language skills needed to learn how to read.²

Starting in Kindergarten, if a student reads 20 minutes a day, they will hear 1.8 million words per year. They will have read for 851 hours by 6th grade and on standardized tests, they will likely score better than 90% of their peers.³

Books contain many words that children are unlikely to encounter frequently in spoken language. Children’s books contain 50% more rare words than primetime television or even college students’ conversations.⁴

Reading aloud is the single most important thing to help a child prepare for reading and learning. In fact, reading aloud every day for at least 15 minutes to “feed a child’s brain,” builds vocabulary and other pre-literacy skills, and powerful social-emotional skills.⁵

Exposing kids to e-books could increase average reading levels by up to 8.4 months.⁶

Access to an e-book platform also improved kids’ reading comprehension. The number of boys who thought reading was difficult dropped from 28% at the start of the study, to 15.9% by its end. The percentage that felt reading was cool rose from 34.4% to 66.5%.⁶

The percentage of children [involved in the e-book study] who enjoyed reading books on paper jumped from 10% to 40%.⁶

3) https://readaloud.org/2014/11/19/read-20-minutes-day/
4) https://ferstreaders.org/resources/fifty-top-literacy-statistics
5) https://readaloud.org/