

# THE IMPORTANCE AND JOY OF READ-ALOUDS

How Parents and Caregivers Can Support Literacy for Their Children



Learning isn't something that just happens in the classroom. Learning is a process that begins in the home and continues throughout a child's school years and beyond. Reading and literacy are the foundation of learning. Parents and caregivers can play an important role in supporting their children in the learning and reading process and reap all the benefits of quality family time together!

## The Benefits of Reading Aloud to Your Child

### 1 Help promote foundational literacy skills for your children.

By reading aloud to your child, you are helping them develop important skills that contribute to reading successfully. You are exposing them to vocabulary and building their background knowledge so they are better prepared for reading in school.



### 2 Help your children to see themselves in stories.

Through reading, your child can explore feelings that help them put words to things they may be thinking. Reading also helps students imagine new adventures. Books can influence children and motivate them to pursue future opportunities.

### 3 Create connections and shared experiences.

Reading together can be quality time, providing opportunities for families to share their thoughts and feelings on characters, stories, authors and illustrators. It also reinforces learning and facilitates engagement and satisfaction in the reading experience.

## Tips on How To Enjoy Read-Alouds At Home

### 1 Pick a book on a topic that interests your child.

When a child finds a book or series on a topic that interests them - sports, adventure, art, science, etc. - it becomes a door to a new world and helps support engagement and continued reading.

### 2 Carve out a time and create a space for reading.

Remove distractions and create an inviting environment for reading with your child. Even just bringing a pillow and cozy blanket can signify this is a special time together.

### 3 Pace yourself and ask questions.

As you read, take brief pauses and allow your child a chance to think. Ask your child questions. What does this make you think of? How does this make you feel? These discussions are an important part of engaging your child in the reading process, supporting their comprehension and enjoyment of the content.

### 4 Consider audiobooks.

If it's easier for you to read with your child with the assistance of an audiobook, this can be a great way of listening to books with your child while a narrator reads the content. Consult your child's teacher about access to audiobooks and devices. Audiobooks are easy to use and can support reading at any age or level.

And don't forget that you can reach out to your child's teacher. Teachers can provide lots of great advice on everything from recommendations on books that suit your child's interests and needs, to other tools and resources you can access to support literacy in your home.

## Happy Reading!



**Learning Ally** is a leading nonprofit education organization dedicated to equipping educators with proven solutions that help early and struggling learners reach their potential. Our range of literacy-focused offerings for students Pre-K to 12th grade, including our award-winning reading resource, the Learning Ally Audiobook Solution™, our new Early Literacy solution, Excite Reading™, and catalog of professional learning allow us to support more than 2 million students and 500,000 educators across the US.