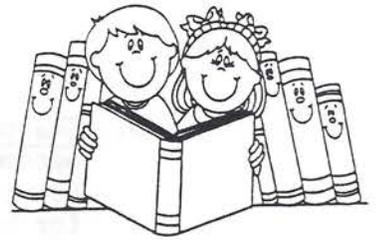


## READING ALOUD TO YOUR CHILD

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

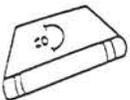
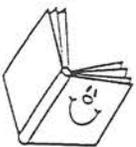
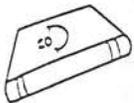
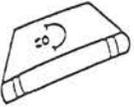
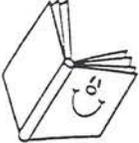
"A jolly good book  
In which to look  
Is better to me  
Than gold."



The benefits of reading aloud to your child can never be underestimated. The most important factor in developing your child's desire to read is constant exposure to books at home as a natural, pleasant part of his daily routine. A child who is having a good time with books will probably want to continue this association with books. There is no better way to accomplish this aim than to read aloud to your child as often as possible. Your child will see that you think reading is important.

### EFFECTS OF READING ALOUD TO YOUR CHILD

1. Creates positive attitudes toward reading. Children are great imitators. When your child sees that you enjoy reading and he associates reading with pleasant experiences, he will be more eager to read. This is a great motivational device.
2. Emotional security. Children feel a sense of belonging when they share the experience of reading with members of their family. Often, as children grow older, they look back upon this time when mom or dad read to them as a precious memory.
3. Improves self-image. When you read aloud to your child, you are showing him he is important because you are giving him special attention.
4. Expands and improves language development. Children become exposed to new words. They can learn to associate meaning with those words through their use in various sentences. The child gains a sense of sentence structure.
5. Improves listening skills. Also, the child gets to hear the natural rhythm (smoothness) of the language.
6. Enhances the child's background of experience. The more background experiences a child has, the better he is able to understand what he reads. Through constant exposure to books, children can also learn to understand environments that differ from those in which they live.
7. Introduces children to good literature. By occasionally reading classics, such as, Charlotte's Web by E. B. White, children are introduced to good books that they otherwise might not know about.



8. Sharpens writing skills. When hearing stories read aloud, children become accustomed to the sound of good writing. When the child has to write himself, he will often recall what he has heard as a model for his writing experiences.

### SELECTING BOOKS

Not every book appeals to every child. Begin with the child. Consider these points:

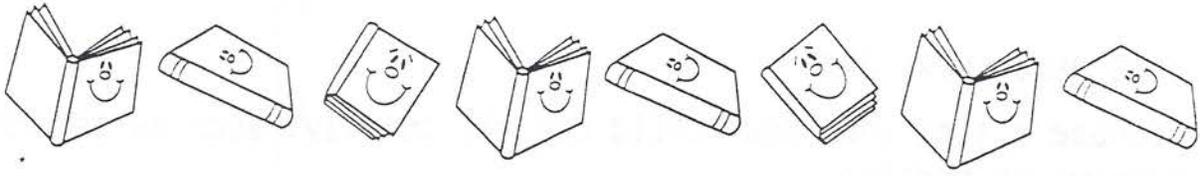
1. The child's age. Select a book with a text that is suited to the child's age level and attention span. A librarian can guide you to a wide variety of appropriate books.
2. The child's interests. Capitalize on your child's interests. If fire engines or animals turn him on, choose books on those subjects. Later, as you read more together, you can begin to expand his interest to other subjects.

Give your child frequent opportunities to browse in libraries, at book exhibits, or in stores where children's books are sold. Encourage him to select a book of his choice.

Should your child select a book he has heard before, do not discourage him. Children often enjoy hearing their favorite stories over and over again. On the other hand, should your child select a book which you feel might be too difficult, you must keep in mind that if you are going to read that particular book to him, he might be able to comprehend the material because he is interested in the subject and, in addition, his listening vocabulary is greater than his reading vocabulary. Finally, should your child choose a lengthy book, you can read different parts at different sittings.

3. The child's emotional needs. Many adults are surprised to learn that a child can be lonely in the midst of other children. Or he may be shy about meeting new people and situations. Perhaps he is frightened of the dark or a thunder storm. Maybe he is having problems in school or with his siblings.

There are books that tell of such youngsters. Exposing children to such books can be helpful in dealing with those crises. When a child realizes that other children have similar problems and he finds out through reading how those children have solved their problems, your child can often learn to feel better about himself. Perhaps a book can serve as a springboard to further discussion of your child's specific concerns. Again, a children's librarian can suggest appropriate books. Often, your child's teacher can be a helpful resource in those matters.



HOW IMPORTANT IS READING ALOUD TO YOUR CHILD?

- from The ABC's of Pre-Reading

by Catherine Lapsansky and Teresa McAndrew

Research has shown that reading aloud to your child is one of the easiest and most important things a parent can do to help their child learn to read.

Reading aloud to your child helps him/her learn:

- 1) that a story has a beginning, middle, and an end;
- 2) to expand his/her imagination through the mental pictures a story creates in the mind;
- 3) the value of changing the tone of your voice to create more meaning to the words of a story;
- 4) that written words can be used to convey thoughts, ideas, and information;
- 5) that READING AND BOOKS can provide a pleasurable experience.

