



Ten Read Aloud Principles

1. Spend at least ten wildly happy minutes *every single day* reading aloud.
2. Read at least three stories a day: it may be the same three stories. Children need to hear a thousand stories before they can begin to read.
3. Read aloud with animation. Listen to your own voice and don't be dull, or flat, or boring. Hang loose and be loud, have fun and laugh a lot.
4. Read with joy and excitement: real enjoyment for yourself and great joy for the listeners.
5. Read the stories that the kids love, over and over and over again and always read in the same "tune" for each book: i.e. with the same intonations on each page, each time.
6. Let children hear lots of language by talking to them constantly about the pictures, or anything else connected to the book; or sing an old song you remember; or say nursery rhymes in a bouncy way, or be noisy together doing clapping games.
7. Look for rhyme, rhythm or repetition in books for younger children, and make sure the books are really short.
8. Play games with the things that you and the child can see on the page, such as letting kids finish rhymes, and finding the letter that starts the child's name and yours, remembering that it's never work, it's always a fabulous game.
9. Never ever *teach* reading, or get tense around books.
10. Read aloud every day because you just love being with your child, not because it's the right thing to do. This is as important for fathers as it is for mothers.

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