

Helpful Ideas

Jim Trelease, author of *The Read-Aloud Handbook* (Penguin Books, 1982), provides these helpful ideas for reading aloud:

- Allow your child a few minutes to settle down and adjust his/her feet and mind to the story.
- Read slowly enough for the child to build mental pictures of what s/he just heard.
- Don't be unnerved by questions during the reading, particularly from a young child. Answer her/his questions patiently. Foster that curiosity with patient answers—then resume your reading.
- Remember that the art of listening is an acquired one. It must be taught and cultivated gradually.



SMART is a 501c3 nonprofit.

We envision an Oregon where every child can read and is empowered to succeed.

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Strategies for Reading Aloud

Why Read Aloud To My SMART Student?

Because reading aloud:

- exposes a child to rich language, proper grammar and exciting new ideas.
- engages and encourages a child's imagination.
- stretches a child's attention span and ability to focus.
- models positive reading behavior.
- shows a child that books are worth his/her attention and interest.
- is fun for both you and your student.

"More than helping them to read better, more than exposing them to good writing, more than developing their imagination, when we read aloud to children we are helping them to find themselves and discover some meaning in the scheme of things."

- Jim Trelease
The Read-Aloud Handbook

How Do I Read Aloud?

- Sit comfortably with the book between you and your student so that you can both easily see the pages.
- Introduce the title and author of the book.
- Point to the words as you read them.
- Use plenty of expression—don't be afraid to ham it up!
- Encourage your student to get involved in the story by describing pictures and making predictions.
- Pause occasionally to ask open-ended questions such as, "What do you think will happen next?" or "What would you do in this situation?"
- Allow time after each book to discuss what most interested you both about the story.
- Make your enthusiasm for reading obvious.

What Do I Read?

- Look for stories related to a topic your student finds interesting, like a favorite animal.
- Read stories that you enjoy. Your enthusiasm will be contagious.
- If a book proves uninteresting after a few pages, don't be afraid to stop and choose another.
- Read favorite books again and again.

"Few children learn to love books by themselves. Someone has to lure them into the wonderful world of the written word; someone has to show them the way."

- Orville Prescott
A Father Reads to His Children
