

READING ALOUD: WHY SO IMPORTANT?



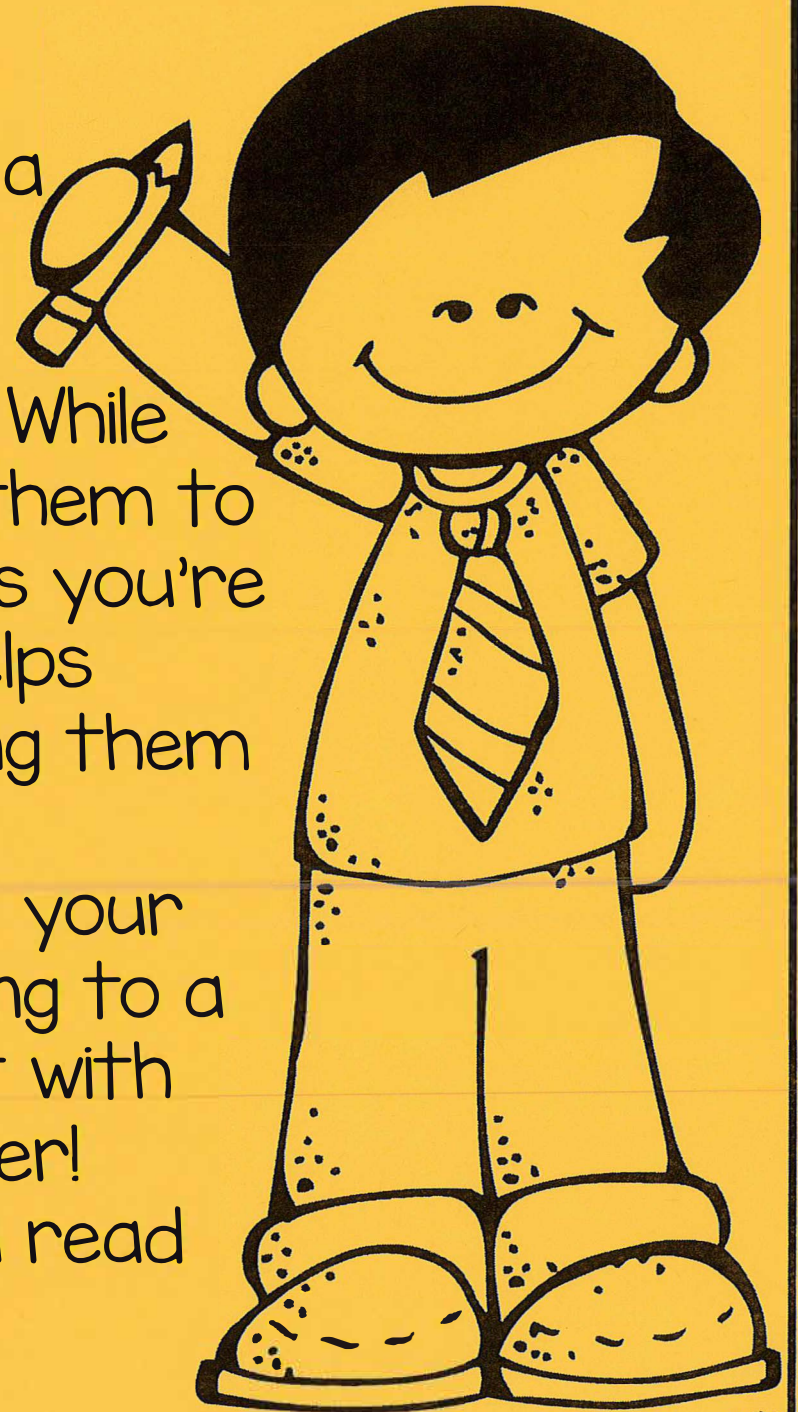
When your child becomes a more independent reader, we often let him or her read on their own and stop reading aloud as often. It's understandable since we want them to practice reading aloud and independently but it's important to remember that reading aloud is important for children of all ages. Even adults enjoy listening to books read aloud on tape. Take turns each night deciding who will read. When you read aloud to your child you are giving them time to sit and think about what they are listening to without the pressure of sounding out words or making sure they are reading smoothly. Listening to books read aloud also allows children to hear new words they may have difficulty reading on their own. If you want your child involved while you read aloud, be sure to track print and tell them you want to see them watching while you read. Don't forget to ask questions before, during and after reading too!

TRACKING PRINT

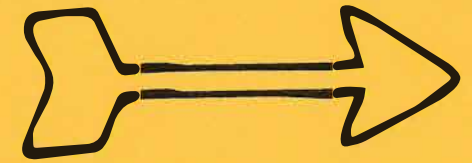
Tracking print is an important tool a beginning reader must learn.

Tracking print is when you point to each word as you read it aloud. While reading with your child encourage them to track print as you read aloud or as you're reading together. Tracking print helps your child learn new words by seeing them and hearing you read them aloud.

Tracking print also lets you know if your child is paying attention while listening to a read aloud. Children can track print with their finger, a pencil or a cool pointer! Modeling how to track print as you read aloud is important too!



ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS



When reading with your child, check for understanding by asking questions. Don't just ask questions at the end, it's important to check for understanding before, during and after reading. Here are some questions to ask!

BEFORE

- What do you think will happen in this story?
- What might be the problem?
- Where may be the setting of the story?
- What do you know about this topic?
- What does this story make you think of?
- What are you wondering?
- What does the title tell you?

DURING

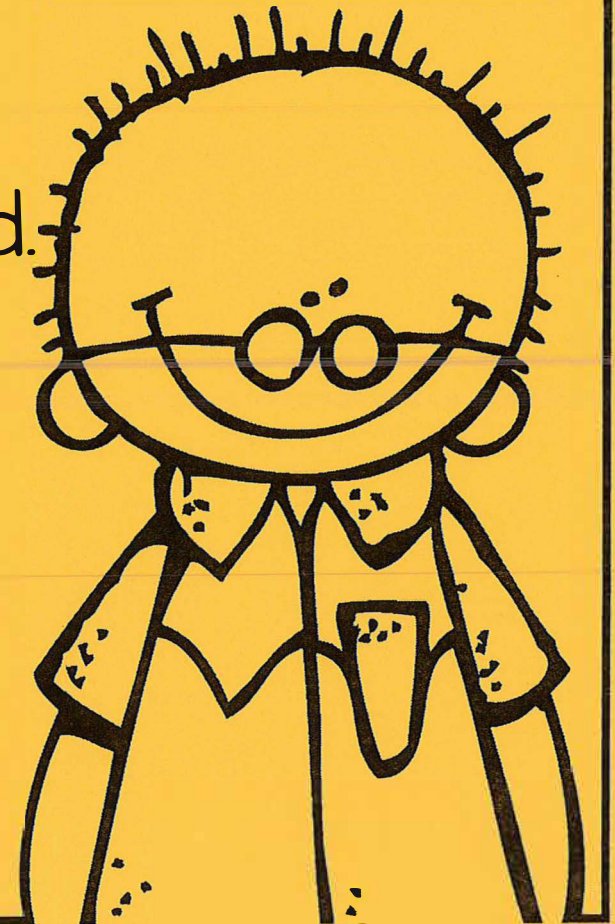
- What do you think will happen next?
- What can you tell me about the story so far?
- How do you feel about the story so far?
- What questions do you have?
- Why do you think the character did that?
- What would you have done?

AFTER

- What was the title?
- What was the problem/solution in the story?
- Why do you think the author wrote this book?
- What was your favorite/least favorite part?
- What would you change about the story?
- What will happen next?

HOW TO READ WITH A BEGINNING READER

- Complete a picture walk BEFORE reading.
- Predict what may happen in the book.
- Model and encourage your child to track print.
- Read a word or sentence and have your child repeat it.
- Take turns reading each page.
- Talk about the story as you read.
What do you think will happen next? What does this story remind you of?
- Read the story again! Repeated readings build fluency and confidence!

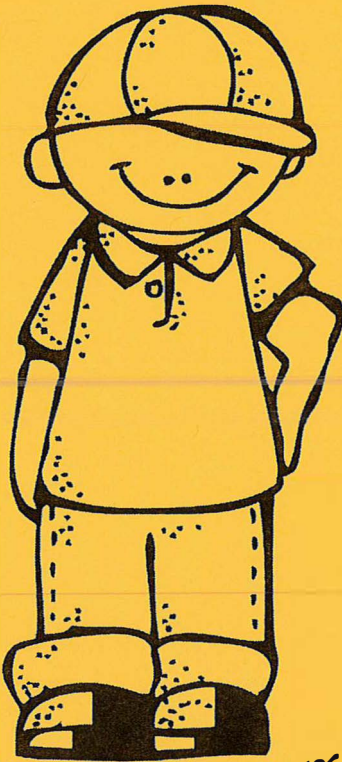


WHY CAN'T WE SKIP READING TONIGHT?

Student A reads 20 minutes each day. This equals 3600 minutes a school year. Student A will read approximately 1,800,000 words.

Student B reads 5 minutes each day. This equals 900 minutes in a school year. Student B will read approximately 282,000 words.

Student C reads 1 minute each day. This equals 180 minutes a school year. Student C will read approximately 8,000 words.



By the end of the school year, Student A will have read the equivalent of 60 school days. Student B will have read only 12 school days. Which student do you expect to be the better reader? (Nagy & Herman, 1987)

EDUCATIONAL APPS FOR KIDS

The following applications are recommended for kids age 2+. They are broken into categories in which they are best suited however, many offer activities for several categories. All applications are available in the Apple iTunes store. Please note that most apps do cost money and some require subscriptions or in-app purchases.

Vocabulary (2-5)

- Tiny Hands First Words
- Tiny Hands What's My Pair?
- Giggle Bellies (songs)
- Write My Name
- Bugs and Buttons
- Endless Alphabet
- Peek-a-boo Barn
- Laugh & Learn Learning Letters Monkey

Early Literacy (2-5)

- BOB Books (1 and 2)
- Starfall (ABC's, Learn to Read)
- ABC Mouse
- ABCya (Word Bingo)
- Fun with Curious George Bundle
- Interactive Alphabet ABC's
- Endless Reader
- Read Me Stories
- Sight Words Flashcards

Just for Fun (2+)

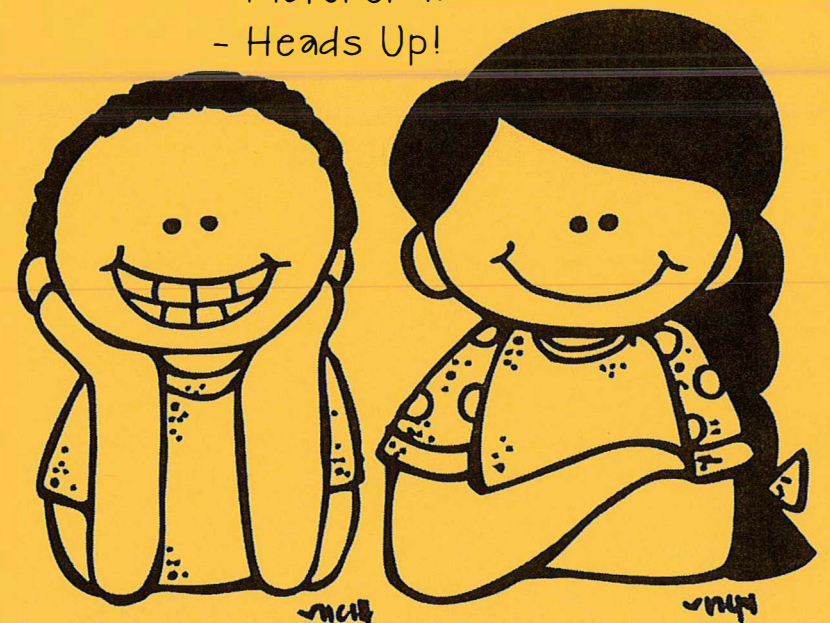
- Tiny Hands Towers
- BrainPOP Jr. (subscription required)
- Hungry Hungry Hippos
- Toca Boca
- PBS Kids Video
- My PlayHome
- Let's Create
- Pictureka!
- Heads Up!

Literacy (5+)

- LAZ Readers (many different titles and levels)
- RAZ Kids (subscription required)
- Dr. Seuss Interactive Books
- HMH Readers
- Reading Rainbow

Early Math Skills (3+)

- Tiny Hands Sorting
- Splash Math
- Starfall Numbers
- ABCya (Math Bingo)
- TallyTots Counting
- TableTots Teacher
- Endless Numbers



READING ISN'T JUST ON PAPER

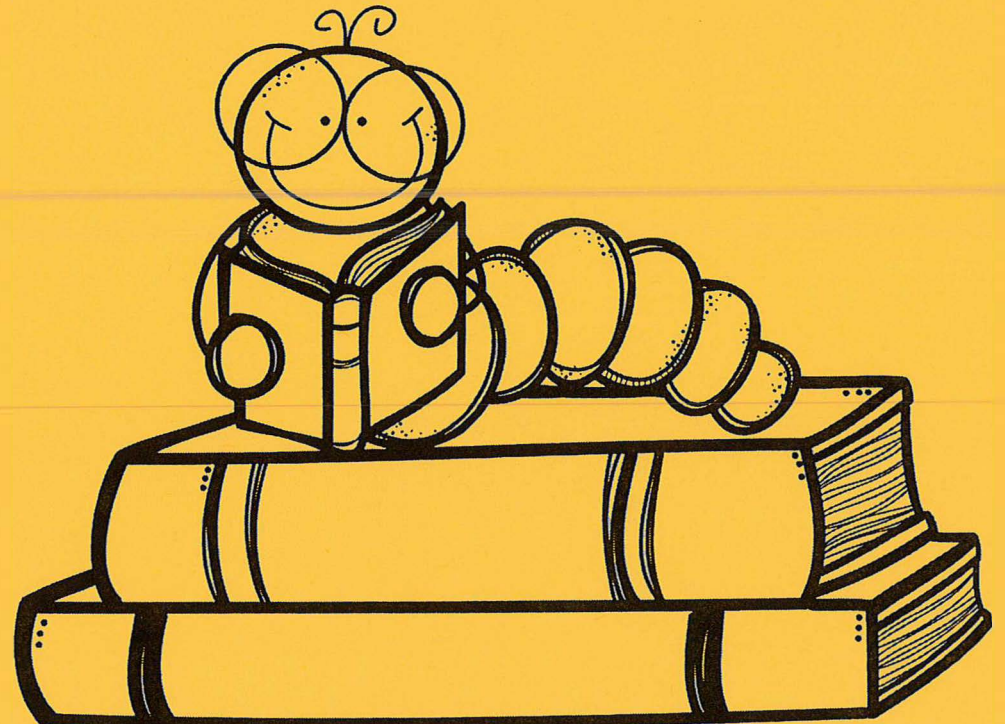
With all the new technology there are more ways to read than ever! Spark your child's interest by introducing them to digital reading using a computer, laptop, tablet or mobile device. Check out these great online resources for digital reading! Please note some of these resources are free and some require a subscription.

FREE RESOURCES

- <http://www.starfall.com>
- <http://www.wegivebooks.org>
- <http://www.speakaboos.com>
- <http://www.storylineonline.net>
- <http://www.readtomely.com>
- <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/u/online-storytime-books-toys/379003588/>
- <http://en.childrenslibrary.org>
- <http://www.abcya.com>
- <http://ngexplorer.cengage.com/ngyoungexplorer/index.html>
- <http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk>
- <http://reading.ecb.org>
- <http://www.seussville.com>

PAID RESOURCES

- <http://www.tumblebooks.com>
- <http://www.abcmouse.com>
- <https://www.readinga-z.com>
- <http://readingeggs.com>



TEN WORD GAMES!

Word games are a great way to practice many different domains of reading! Here are some word games to play at home!

1.

Guess My Word:

Give your child clues to a word you are thinking of. It rhymes with.... It starts with.... It would be used to describe.... A synonym is....

2.

Beach Ball Words:

Write words on a beach ball. Toss it to your child. Have them read the word that is under their right hand. Toss it back and forth.

3.

Magnetic Letters:

Make words with magnetic letters on the refrigerator or any magnetic surface. Give your child the letters, tell them the word and see if they can make it.

4.

Sock Game:

Put word cards down on the floor. Have your child stand in their socks. Call out the word and see how quickly they can step on it!

5.

Dot Game:

Laminate word cards. Be sure to review words before playing. Use an Expo marker to draw a dot on the back of one of the cards. Don't let your child see which one. Lay cards out on the floor or a table. Have your child guess which word is hiding the dot!

6.

Shaving Cream:

Put shaving cream (or sand/paint) on a plate. Write a word using your finger. Have your child read it.

7.

Newspaper Words:

Give your child a word. Have them use a highlighter and find it in the newspaper. Highlight it when they've found it. Count how many times they've found it.

8.

Show and Tell:

Give your child a whiteboard and a marker. Call out a word. Have your child write it/draw a picture for it/write a sentence (choose a different task depending on your child's needs) for it and show you on the whiteboard.

9.

Tic-Tac-Toe:

Draw a tic-tac-toe board. Write a word in each box. Before each turn the player must read the word.

10.

Card Games:

Copy or write two sets of word cards. Play a card game such as Go Fish or Memory.