

# Why is reading aloud so important?

Research has shown that reading aloud is the single most important activity for reading success.

## What to read?

Children need to be exposed to a wide range of stories and books. It is important that they see themselves represented in books, as well as other people, cultures, communities and issues. Look for a wide range of culturally diverse books, this will help children to find and make connections to their own life experiences as well as issues and concerns that they may hear about or be aware of. Look for books with rich language, meaningful plots, compelling characters and engaging illustrations. Helping children find and make connections to stories and books requires them to relate the unfamiliar text to their prior knowledge.

## 5 Reasons reading aloud to children is so important:

- 1. Children can listen on a higher level than they can read themselves.**
- 2. Reading aloud helps children to become better readers.**
- 3. Reading aloud is modelling how to make connections by ‘thinking aloud’**
- 4. Reading aloud builds vocabulary**
- 5. Reading aloud promotes social and emotional growth**

## Let's Talk!

Talk about what you are reading or what is happening in the illustrations. Let your child ask you questions too. Maybe you can find out the answers together or maybe there aren't any answers! Reading aloud is a good way to start conversations and find out what your child is thinking or worrying about.

## Finally...

The most important thing to do when reading aloud to children is to try to enjoy it! Don't be embarrassed to use funny voices or pull some silly facial expressions. Change the volume of your voice, sometimes you may need to be as loud as thunder, sometimes you may need to be as quiet as a mouse. You don't always have to sit still when you're reading aloud, some stories are more fun if you are standing up and moving around. You may want your child to join in with their voices and bodies but other times you may just want your child to sit still and listen quietly.

Most importantly of all... **have fun!**