



Parent Resource Newsletter

The Benefits of Children's Stories



The Read Aloud Difference

Parents who read children's stories aloud to their kids provide a strong, positive influence and build a foundation for a lifetime of significant benefits. But what really are these reading aloud benefits? What kind of difference are we talking about?

Below is a summary of the significant ways in which reading stories aloud to kids will change their lives . . . and yours. It won't happen overnight, as change is gradual, but continued and dedicated reading will most definitely bring noticeable, long-term changes.

Did you know . . .

- In this day and age of hectic lives and busy schedules, **reading together** is a simple and enjoyable way for parents to take time out and focus on the family. Young children need lots of special, dedicated time with their loved ones.
- Reading children's stories aloud to our kids is just **plain FUN!!**
- Reading children's stories is a wonderful bonding experience that fosters meaningful **one-on-one communication** with our kids.
- It shows our children in no uncertain terms that **they are important to us.**
- It molds our kids into becoming readers, and raising a reader significantly increases our child's potential for **academic success** as well as lifelong success in general.
- It is a vital and integral part of teaching our kids how to read as children learn how to read by being read to.
- It helps our children **master language development.**
- It **builds listening skills**, increases a child's attention span, and develops the ability to concentrate at length of which all are learned skills.
- It develops children's ability to express themselves more confidently, easily, and clearly in spoken AND written terms.
- It develops and fosters a child's natural curiosity.
- It develops creativity and a child's ability to use their own imagination!
- It expands our children's horizons, quells fears, exposes them to new situations, and teaches them appropriate behavior.
- Reading children's stories to our children provides the best opportunities for true "teaching moments ."
- Reading picture books develops a young child's appreciation for the arts through exposure to many different styles of art and illustrations.

This time of year lends itself to some magical reading time with your child. There is so much that reading children's stories aloud to your kids can do for them. So this holiday season; take out *The Night before Christmas* or your favorite holiday book and **let's start reading together today.**

Resource: © Copyright 2003-2010, Little Ones Reading Resource
All Rights Reserved.



WHAT PARENTS CAN DO Helping Your Child Succeed in School

Why 20 minutes a day?

Have You Read with Your Child Today?

It takes hundreds of hours of "lap time" for a child to acquire the pre-literacy skills necessary for learning to read early and well. From birth to age five, the pleasant activity of listening to and talking about stories trains a child's brain, ears, and eyes for eventual success in learning to read.

Once a child begins to read, it is essential to continue reading aloud together. Like other skills, reading is mastered over time, with lots of practice, and with the help of another person. There is practically no way to do it wrong, but there are ways to do it better. We are here to help you. The routine of sharing books together creates lifelong readers.

The magic of this process is the simplicity of action. Any adult can do it, in just about any place, with little or no expense. It doesn't matter what language is spoken. Non-reading parents can make up stories to go with the illustrations. The essential elements are scheduled time with books and a positive attitude!

Make reading together the most important - and happiest - 20 minutes of your day!

20 MINUTES A DAY

Read to your children
Twenty minutes a day;
You have the time,
And so do they.
Read while the laundry is in the machine;
Read while dinner cooks;
Tuck a child in the crook of your arm
And reach for the library books.
Hide the remote,
Let the computer games cool,
For one day your child will be off to school;
Remedial? Gifted? You have the choice.
Let them hear their first tales,
In the sound of your voice.
Read in the morning,
Read over noon,
Read by the light of
Goodnight Moon.
Turn the pages together,
Sitting close as you'll fit,
'Till a small voice beside you says,
"Hey, don't quit."

Author Unknown

This Month's Family Literacy Activity

Gifts Guaranteed to Please

You're short on time, you're short of cash, and you're all out of ideas? Here are gift suggestions that are 99 percent guaranteed to please the children you love.

Select a favorite book or put together a scrapbook of family events or times you've shared with the child, and wrap it up with a recording of you reading the story or describing what's on the scrapbook pages. Remember to ring a little bell to signal "Time to turn the page!"

Create a personalized alphabet or numbers book with each page identifying something in your child's life. Use pictures of your family, places the child goes and labels from things your family eats to illustrate pages such as "A" for apple juice, "B" for bath, "C" for cat or car or cookie, "1" for "one school," "2" for "two legs," and "3" for a picture of Mom, Dad and the child.

Older students with younger siblings can work with you to create a lasting gift for all members of the family. Take turns reading pages of the chosen book or having them help in drawing the personalized alphabets or numbers.

Expressing Appreciation for Each Other

Some people say "I love you" easily. Others of us are more reserved. For those for whom it's hard to express admiration or appreciation for family members, author and clinical psychologist Eileen Kennedy-Moore has a suggestion. As she explains:

"My husband and I and our four children have a tradition called 'Christmas Eve Books.' We each have one of these, a small book with blank pages. In December, each of us secretly writes three things that he or she loves about each other family member in that person's book.

"The entries begin with the words 'I love how you. . .'. To help the kids figure out what to write, I have some prompts on an index card: 'What do you like or admire most about ____?' 'What is the nicest thing ____ has done for you either lately or this year?' 'What do you enjoy doing with ____?' The older kids write their entries on their own, but I serve as scribe for the younger kids. On Christmas Eve, we read the new entries aloud. It's a wonderful way to celebrate what's most important within our family: cherishing each other."

Resource: Reprinted with permission from Parenting Press News for Parents, copyright © 2009. For a free subscription, see www.ParentingPress.com/signup.html

School News

Our winter break is fast approaching. Our last day of school is Friday, December 17th. School will be closed from Monday, December 20th and resume again on Monday, January 3rd. During this winter break we hope your child keeps up with his/her reading. Remember just 20 minutes a day reading aloud with young children strengthens relationships, encourages listening and language skills, promotes attention and curiosity, and establishes a strong reading foundation. These skills are essential for success in school and in life. Have fun this holiday season and keep reading!

Site Review

Resources available for Parents and Families:

Website **School Time Games**: Wholesome Learning Fun for Kids. A safe place for kids to learn, have fun, be creative, and explore online. **Website:** <http://www.schooltimegames.com/index.html>

REVIEW

School Time Games offers students a fun and engaging way to learn about science, social studies, language arts, and math. Games are provided for such areas as sports, problem solving, arcade games, and logic games; a total of 180 games, puzzles, and activities can entertain students, ages nine and up, for hours. All games are put through a series of tests by students before being added to the site. Game play is intuitive for most students, and games are engaging, challenging, and age appropriate.

Kids' Corner

Kid-Friendly December Decorations



Snowflakes: How many different ways can you fold and cut white paper for snowflakes? Hang them one by one in your windows or string them all together for a garland around a door frame or a mobile over the kitchen table.



Stars: Or celebrate with a garland of stars! Cut them white paper and pierce each one in the middle so the stars can be strung on fishline or heavy thread. (Another garland idea: cut out stars, snowmen, Santas and birds from old holiday cards and string them across doorways or windows.)

Paper lanterns: For light indoors or out, drop tea lights into glass jars you've decorated. Even little kids can smear on paint or decoupage with colored tissue. Grown-ups and bigger kids can snip paper into patterns to wrap around the jars.

Origami: Turn scraps of stiff wrapping paper (heavy foil gift wrap is wonderful) into cranes you can hang in the windows.

Pomanders: Extend the scents of the season by studding oranges and lemons with whole cloves. Make faces, patterns—or cover the entire fruit. (If you're having trouble pressing in the cloves, make a tiny starter hole with a darning needle or skewer.) Mound the pomanders in a dish in a room you use a lot, so that you can enjoy the aroma.

Here are our 2010-2011 Title I Contacts:

Davey School – Consultant, Mrs. Jeanie Hiestand
(330-676-7462)

Holden School – Consultant, Mrs. Katrina Kelling
(330-676-8433)

Longcoy School – Consultant, Mrs. Caren Young
(330-676-8350)

Walls School – Consultant, Mrs. Katrina Kelling
(330-676-8300)

Franklin School – Consultant, Mrs. Caren Young
(330-676-8450)

Parent Involvement Coordinator – Ms. Pam Bose
(330-676-7425)

Federal Grants Coordinator – Mrs. Lori Slattery,
Director of Instructional Program
(330-676-7600)



Parents
plus
Schools
equals
Success