

## Tips for reading aloud

Stay flexible and stay interactive. To keep reading fun and interesting for yourself and your child, consider some of these ideas:

- Don't be afraid to have fun with it. Experiment with voices and sound effects. If your child is laughing, you're probably doing something right.
- Give your child a chance to look at the pictures. Older preschoolers can find shapes and colors within the pictures.
- Ask your child to tell you how the people in the story feel. This lets them practice spoken language ("expressive language") and gives you a window into how your child is thinking.
- Talk with children about ways in which they are like the books characters ("You have a little sister just like Arthur does!").
- Encourage your child to ask questions about the books.
- Run your finger across the words as you read. This teaches your child that the words tell the story that they are hearing.
- After you're done reading, ask your child about the story and ask if he or she would have acted the same way as the characters in the story. Ask about favorite characters and favorite parts of the story.



## About Reach Out and Read®

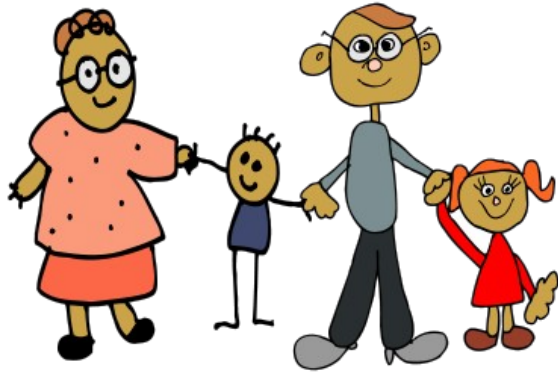
Reach Out and Read® makes literacy promotion a standard part of pediatric primary care, so that children grow up with books and a love of reading. Reach Out and Read trains doctors and nurses to advise parents about the importance of reading aloud and to give books to children at pediatric check-ups from six months to five years of age, with a special focus on children growing up in poverty. By building on the unique relationship between parents and medical providers, Reach Out and Read® helps families and communities encourage early literacy skills so children enter school prepared for success in reading.



## Shared Reading

Reading with your child before your child can read





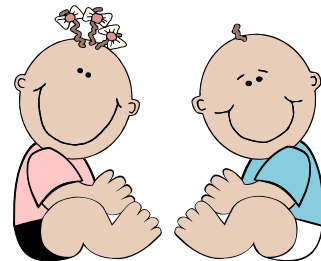
## Reasons for Reading

- Reading is fun! Reading aloud with a child in the early stages of literacy lets caregivers share their experiences with children and to watch the child's skills develop.
- Reading aloud to infants and toddlers has been shown to help get them ready for preschool and to improve development of reading proficiency.
- Books provide “mirrors and windows” even for very young children. The mirrors help them understand their own lives. Books are also windows into experiences that a child hasn't had yet. By sharing and talking about stories, parents can also share their family's values with their children
- Reading is a family activity – something that every member of the family can do together and enjoy.

## Early literacy at different ages

Children develop different skills at different rates, but these guidelines can help you know what to expect when reading with your child:

½–1 year	Provide colorful, sturdy books with pictures of people (especially faces). Kids this age often only sit still for 5-10 minutes at a time.
1–1½ years	Ask simple questions (“Where is the cat?”). Children may respond by pointing to pictures. Respond to a child's request for reading (they may start bringing books to you)
1½–2 years	Have books available for free-play. Some children pretend to read to dolls/stuffed animals. As children begin to learn more words, ask them to name objects in the pictures. Provide books with rhymes, animals.
2–3 years	Ask questions about how the book makes them feel or how they think the book's characters feel. Ask what will happen next (some children can remember favorite stories enough to tell them by themselves). Respond to your child's curiosity- take time to answer the questions they ask when reading.
3–5 years	Let your child retell a familiar story Encourage letter and word recognition when your child is ready.



## Questions???

### What is a good place and a good time to read with my child?

The *best* place for reading is one that is comfortable and free of distractions. However, reading can be done just about anywhere. Pulling a book out of a diaper bag and reading can buy you a few minutes of calm while waiting with a child.

One way to make reading a habit is to make it a scheduled part of each day. Reading can be a great part of a bedtime routine. Before long, your child will be reminding you that it is book time.

### How do I choose books to read with my child?

Try to find books that deal with subjects your child likes. Let your child be involved in the choosing. Librarians can make suggestions of books that fit with your child's interests.



Kids of all ages may find a favorite book and want to hear it over and over again. Sometimes older preschoolers will ask to read board books they had from when they were younger. Both of these are part of normal development. Children learn through repetition and by looking back at material that a child has already “mastered”.