

More Than a Bedtime Routine

The Importance of Reading Aloud

Laura Arnhold



Why Read Aloud?

All Kids

- Shows kids it's important
- Makes your time together a priority
- Teaches kids reading is fun
- Creates teachable moments
- Provides time for talking together
- Encourages empathy

Older Kids

- Lets them experience the joy of story
- Models fluent reading
- Expand their vocabulary
- Builds awareness and empathy
- Exposes kids to new authors, texts, and genres
- Improves kids' long-term reading success

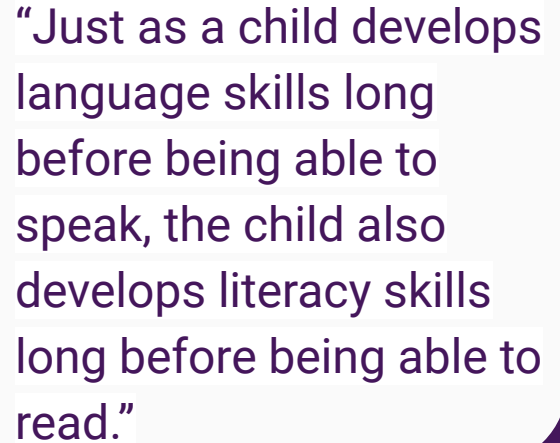
Social-Emotional Learning

- Increases Emotional Intelligence and Empathy
- Connects to Others Through Story
- Improves Problem Solving and Creative Thinking Skills
- Adapt to and Understand Change

“At birth your baby’s brain is only 25% of its adult size. By age three your child’s brain will be 80% of its adult size.”

Six Early Literacy Skills

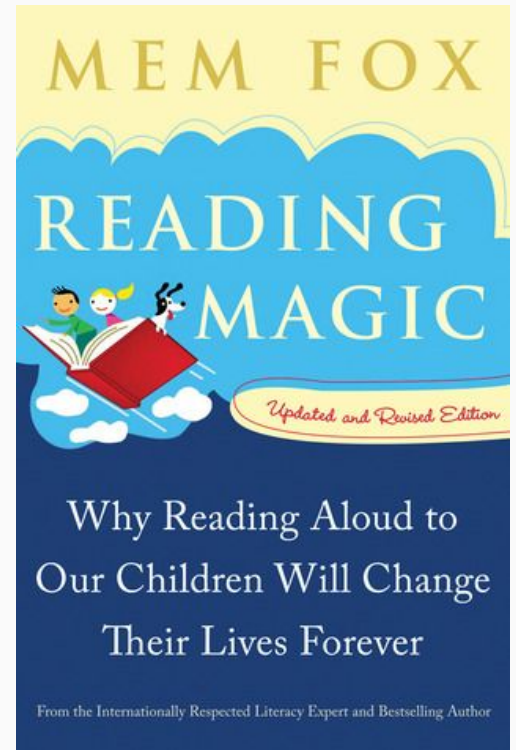
- **Print Motivation**
 - being interested in and enjoying books
- **Print Awareness**
 - noticing print everywhere, knowing how to handle a book, and knowing how to follow the written word on the page
- **Letter Knowledge**
 - knowing that letters are different from each other, knowing letter names and sounds, and recognizing letters everywhere
- **Vocabulary**
 - knowing all kinds of words
- **Phonological Awareness**
 - hearing and playing with the smaller sounds of words
- **Narrative Skills**
 - describing things and events, telling stories, knowing the order of events, and making predictions



“Just as a child develops language skills long before being able to speak, the child also develops literacy skills long before being able to read.”

Reading Magic by Mem Fox

- Easy-to-read parenting book that shows the importance of reading aloud to kids
- Filled with stories and anecdotes
- Revised edition published in 2008, but still valuable
- Twenty Books Kids Will Love - an older list, but many are still popular classics we have in the library
- Ten Read-Aloud Commandments



1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

- Join the Upper Merion Township Library's 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program
- Mark down every book you read, by coloring in a star on a form
- For every 100 stars, your child will receive a small prize
- Graduation ceremony every summer for kids who completed their 1,000 books

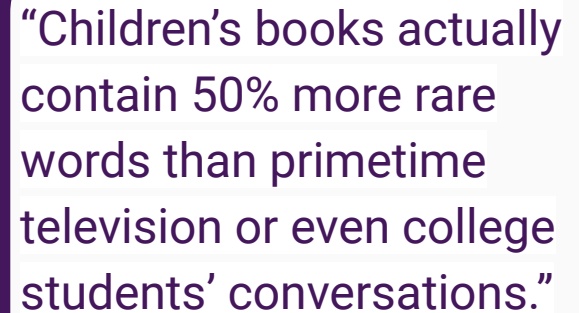
1 book/day x 3 years = 1,095 books

10 books/week x 2 years = 1,040 books

3 books/day x 1 year = 1,095 books

Choosing Read Aloud Books

- Many parents are unsure what books to choose for their child
- Choose ANYTHING
- Granted, some concepts might be too advanced for your preschooler
- Try poetry, magazines, picture books, chapter books, nonfiction, whatever works
- Make it fun!
- Choose books with characters who look and do not look like your child - show them the diversity of the world and start talking about differences now



“Children’s books actually contain 50% more rare words than primetime television or even college students’ conversations.”

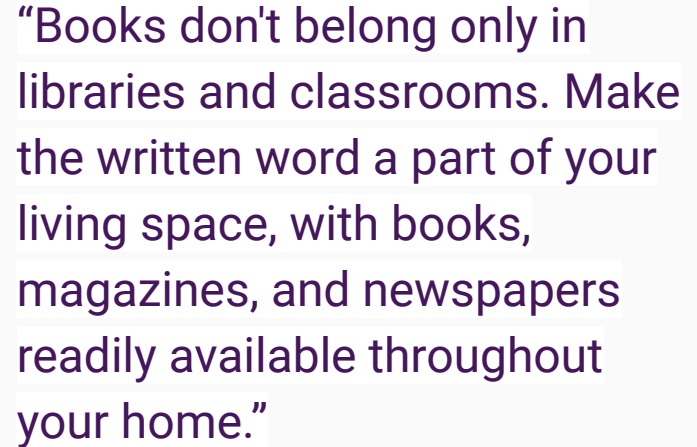
Access to Books

- The single most significant factor influencing a child's early educational success is an introduction to books and being read to at home prior to beginning school.
- Do you have books for your child in your home?
- Where are they located?
- Subscription box services
- Bookstores
- Get a library card for access to even more books
- Check out Little Free Library's all over the U.S.

“Children growing up in homes with at least twenty books get three years more schooling than children from bookless homes, independent of their parents' education, occupation, and class.”

Reading Role Model

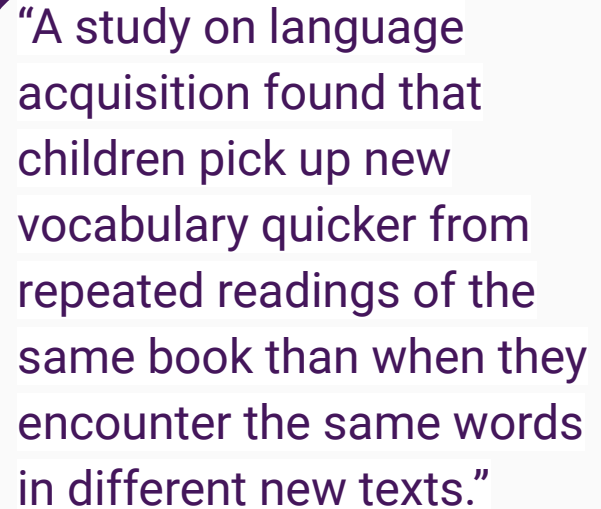
- Shows that you value reading and spend time doing it
- Talk about what you're reading
- Borrow books for yourself when visiting the library
- Create an environment where reading is valued
- Take a book with you when you're out running errands, picking up kids from school, appointments, etc.
- Put the technology away



“Books don't belong only in libraries and classrooms. Make the written word a part of your living space, with books, magazines, and newspapers readily available throughout your home.”

Repetitive Readings

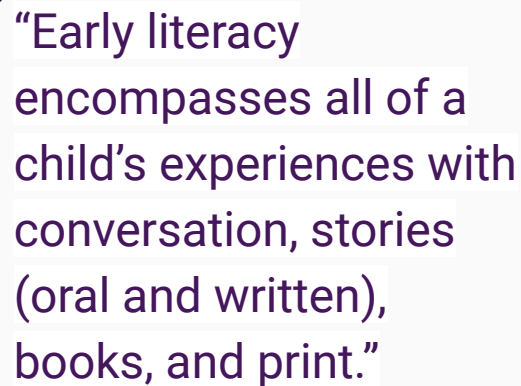
- It's comforting
- Vocabulary
- Rhythm
- Fluency
- Comprehension
- Sequence (beginning, middle, end)



“A study on language acquisition found that children pick up new vocabulary quicker from repeated readings of the same book than when they encounter the same words in different new texts.”

Beyond the Book

- Reading happens everywhere! Show your child by:
 - Reading signs when driving in the car
 - Read the names of fruits and vegetables at the store while shopping
 - Read a recipe together to create a fun meal or snack
 - Read the directions before playing a new game
 - Head to a local museum or nature preserve and read the signs



“Early literacy encompasses all of a child’s experiences with conversation, stories (oral and written), books, and print.”

Beyond the Book (Technology)

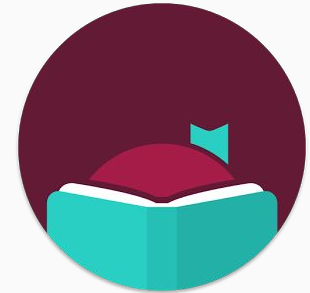
These online resources are available and free to use from the library's website.

The logo for BOOKFLIX, with 'BOOK' in blue, 'FLIX' in green, and a registered trademark symbol.

Pairs picture books with nonfiction titles.



TumbleBooks are animated picture books that are read aloud to you.



Access to eBooks from the library. Look for OverDrive



Scholastic's True Book series available in eBook form.

- *Closet Ghosts* by Uma Krishnaswami
- *Down by the Station* by Jennifer Riggs Vetter
- *Flora and the Flamingo* by Molly Idle
- *Ganesha's Sweet Tooth* by Sanjay Patel
- *Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns: A Muslim Book of Colors* by Hena Khan
- *Grandma's Purse* by Vanessa Brantley-Newton
- *Green is a Chile Pepper: A Book of Colors* by Roseanne Thong
- *I Ain't Gonna Paint No More* by Karen Beaumont

- *In the Sea* by David Elliott
- *Jabari Jumps* by Gaia Cornwall
- *Lady Pancake and Sir French Toast* by Josh Funk
- *Lola Reads to Leo* by Anna McQuinn
- *Mama's Saris* by Pooja Makhijani
- *Mango, Abuela, and Me* by Meg Medina
- *My First Day* by Steve Jenkins
- *Raindrops Roll* by April Pulley Sayre
- *Stuck* by Oliver Jeffers
- *Over and Under the Pond* by Kate Messner
- *Where Is the Green Sheep?* by Mem Fox

Resources

- <https://www.readbrightly.com/importance-of-reading-aloud-to-big-kids/>
- <https://ferstreaders.org/resources/fifty-top-literacy-statistics>
- <https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/reading-resources/be-reading-role-model.html>
- <https://cli.org/2016/03/07/benefits-of-repeated-read-alouds/>