

TOP 10 FOR READING ALOUD WITH CHILDREN



1

Read the book ahead of time

The more familiar you are with the book, the easier it will be to follow the rest of the tips

2

Shorten longer stories

You don't have to read a story word for word, you can shorten longer books by summarizing pages, especially if you have completed Tip #1

3

Identify key concepts and vocabulary you want to highlight

While pre-reading the story, pick out a few interesting words or ideas you might want to explain to your child. This will really build their vocabulary!

4

Use the cover for clues about the book

Often, the title and illustration on the front of children's books give us clues about the story. Ask your child to notice the cover and wonder with you "What do you think this book might be about?"

5

Be expressive with the voices!

While pre-reading the story, pick out a few interesting words or ideas you might want to explain to your child. This will really build their vocabulary!

6

Mirror the emotions of the characters with your face

In addition to changing your voice to match the characters', changing your face to match their emotions helps children understand how that character could be feeling. If the character is mad, show off your mad face. If the character is crying, show off your pouting face. You can also encourage your child to match their face!

7

Use the cover for clues about the book

Its easy to get focused on just reading the words of the story, but a great way to enhance children's understanding of the plot is to ask them open-ended questions about it: Why do you think the character said that? What do you think will happen next? How do you think they are feeling right now? These sorts of questions that are more than just a yes-no answer, help children recall parts of the story to inform their answers.

8

Read the same book...over and over again

Even if you are sick of reading the same book night after night, your child LOVES it! This repetition builds mastery of the story, offers a sense of predictability that children crave, and even increases their confidence when learning to read.

9

Leave parts of the story out and see what happens

With rhyming books, pause and see if your child can fill in the rhyming word. With older children, you might skip a whole page of the story and see if they catch it! Most often, they will notice a part of the story is missing and ask you to go back. This shows, again, that mastery of the plot

10

Have Fun!

Reading should always be a time for connection. It should be a beloved time with your children that is enjoyable and leads to a love of learning.