



TIPS FOR READING ALOUD WITH YOUNG LEARNERS

WHY READING ALOUD IS IMPORTANT

- Associates reading with pleasure, fun, and excitement
- Expands body of background knowledge
- Great exposure to rare words
- Immersion and repeated exposure to complex language
- Shared adult-child learning
- Positive modelling
- Builds listening vocabulary, which builds speaking and writing vocabularies
- “Reading aloud is a proven technique to help children cope during times of stress.” (*Reach Out and Read*)

TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

BEFORE READING

- Familiarize yourself with your books before you read to the students. Know any plot twists or difficult vocabulary words so you may give an engaging read-aloud.
- Take time to introduce the book. Students need a transition so that they can focus on comprehending the story. Ask questions that create anticipation for the book and start students thinking about what will happen.

WHILE READING

- Discuss difficult words you come across. Ask students if they know the word. If not, define.
- Discuss the pictures and what students observe or notice.
- Ask questions to help students interact with the book and connect the book to their lives.
- Read with expression, and not too quickly.
- React as you read, to model interaction and reading comprehension. This is called *thinking aloud*.

AFTER READING

- Review vocabulary words and their context in the book.
- Ask open-ended questions to help students reflect on the book and connect the book to their lives. Invite students to react.
- Ask what they liked, didn't like, and learned about the book to reinforce comprehension skills.