



## Read Aloud to a Child Week

October 22 - 28, 2017

Dear Parents and Teachers:

Thank you for joining us in celebrating **Read Aloud to a Child Week!** This annual event was established by the Virginia State Legislature as a way to emphasize the importance of reading aloud to children and to encourage families to participate. There is a large body of research that documents and confirms the benefits of reading aloud to children. It may in fact be the most important activity that parents share with children to help them become strong readers. Reading aloud builds a strong parent-child bond that can last a lifetime!

In order to join in, simply choose a book that your child will enjoy and commit to reading together for about twenty minutes each night for the week of **October 22nd – 28th**. For this year's event we have suggested that parents consider sharing readings that follow the theme of **"Connect"**. Our staff has compiled a **List of Suggested Titles** on our website that fit this year's theme. These are just suggestions that should be readily available at your local library, and it is perfectly acceptable to use any other books you have available. If nightly reading isn't possible, 20-minute sessions spread over the weekend will work well, too.

Parents can complete the **Pledge Sheet** as a way to demonstrate a commitment to participating. How you choose to participate is up to you – flip the pages of a physical book, listen to an audiobook, or read an ebook – just do this together as a shared family activity. When the week is over, please use our **Reading Certificate** to reward your child. However you decide to get involved, I'm sure that you and your child will love reading together, and it is our hope that this will inspire Family Literacy to become a habit in your home.

Please download our **Challenge Page** which provides a full description of **Read Aloud to a Child Week**. Feel free to also access other family literacy materials on our website and see how reading to children has benefited so many families. We would love to hear from you! Please share your experiences and participation with us through social media or simply by emailing us at [programs@readtothem.org](mailto:programs@readtothem.org).

Thank you for joining us in celebrating READING ALOUD!

Yours truly,

Chris Dudley  
Programs Coordinator  
Read to Them®





## Read Aloud to a Child Week

October 22 - 28, 2017

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Educators:

Welcome to **Read Aloud to a Child Week 2017!** Reading aloud is one of the most effective techniques that parents can use to positively impact children's success in school and in life. Some of the benefits of reading aloud are increased vocabulary, language comprehension, listening skills, creativity, and imagination.

Additionally, and perhaps most importantly, reading together builds a strong parent-child bond that can last a lifetime! When parents model reading and lead the family in literacy, children are inspired to read themselves. Research shows that investing in your children by reading to them has positive effects in many areas of their lives including self-esteem and their ability to build and create relationships. Simply put, reading to your children is an essential parenting practice that has tremendous benefits.

We encourage reading about 20 minutes per night, but if that is too hectic for your schedule, 20-minute sessions spread over the weekend work fine too. You can do this by reading a physical book, an ebook, or even by listening to an audiobook – just do this together as a shared family activity. That's the important part! Make reading together a habit in your home, and you will be amazed at the positive results that you'll see in your child's development!

Yours truly,

Chris Dudley  
Programs Coordinator  
Read to Them®



Our 2017 Theme:

October 22 - 28, 2017

## Connect

/kəˈnekt/

verb

to join, unite, or bind

to establish communication between

(definitions from dictionary.com)

Use children's literature to connect...

You can use books - picture books and chapter books - to connect.

*Parents can connect with children.*

*Children can connect with each other.*

*Classrooms can connect.*

*Families can connect.*

*Communities can connect.*

Readers can connect with characters - with people in other places and people in other times.

You can connect with other children, other cultures, other ways of living or understanding the world.

Use literature to connect and forge stronger emotional bonds.

Use literature to connect and learn more about the people and world around you.

Use literature to connect!

Read with your children during Read to a Child Week - October 2017.

Yours truly,

Chris Dudley  
Programs Coordinator  
Read to Them®





## READ ALOUD PLEDGE

October 22 - 28, 2017

Take the READ ALOUD CHALLENGE!

Please fill in the pledge below and return it to your child's teacher by \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ YES! I pledge to read to my child(ren) for 20 minutes every day.

Parent's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Pledge fulfilled (please circle reading days) Su M Tu W Th F Sa

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

School Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Share your reading experience on social media using hashtags #raw2017 and #readtothem!





## Read Aloud to a Child Week

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### Instructions to Parents

**Read to Them**<sup>®</sup> asks parents and caregivers to...

- Read one story or chapter of a book to your children, or listen to an audiobook together with your child at home every night during the week.
- After listening to the story, parents should talk with their children about the story using these four questions:

1. What will you remember most about this story or chapter?
2. What new words did you hear and learn?
3. What challenges did the characters face in the story?
4. How were these challenges resolved? What would you do?

At the end of the week, children will turn their completed pledge sheets to their teachers.

**Celebrate the READ ALOUD CHALLENGE in your school!**  
**Enjoy sharing the LOVE of READING ALOUD with a CHILD this week!**

Share your reading experience on social media using hashtags #raw2017 and #readtothem!



**READ ALOUD TO A CHILD WEEK**



**CONGRATULATIONS!!!**

You are a 2017 READ ALOUD CHAMPION!

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(Participant)

This certificate is awarded as recognition of participating in Read Aloud To A Child Week 2017.