



Read to Them

THE BENEFITS OF READING ALOUD

Parents and caregivers are a child's first teacher. And the home is a child's first school.

By reading aloud to your child, you are equipping them with a vital toolkit. These skills are invaluable to social, emotional, and academic learning:



Academic – Being able to read (and read well) gives your child a leg up in their academic journey. You are providing the scaffolding that lets them stack newfound knowledge atop what is already familiar. Reading aloud exposes your child to new words, allowing them to acquire vocabulary, grammar, and syntax skills. As Jim Trelease liked to say, “Grammar is caught, not taught.”



Empathy – By delving into an array of stories, your child can experience new ways of seeing the world. Journeying through different settings and time periods with a variety of characters allows your child to become more aware of the world around them. As Jacqueline Woodson once said, “When we come out of a book, we’re different.”



Verbal & Linguistic – When you read together, you are pouring words and language into your child's brain. Children can begin to understand the “do's and don'ts” of writing, such as sentence structure and narrative building. As they grow, these vital verbal resources will make it easier to read, write, and communicate.



Emotional – Reading aloud together can serve as valuable parent-child bonding time. Children won't just recall their feelings about the story, they'll remember the feeling of experiencing it with you! Research has also shown that understanding what others have experienced can help children regulate their own emotions.



Focus – It is widely known that, “Reading sharpens children's brains.” The ability to focus is a vital skill that is often under threat in our digital age. Reading aloud can help expand your child's attention span, building their ability to work out problems with patience and thoroughness.



Social – Reading aloud is a shared experience, a way of building connections. You're sure to spark back and forth exchanges about your book. Together, you can react to characters, illustrations, pivotal moments, and passages to achieve a deeper, more meaningful reading experience.