

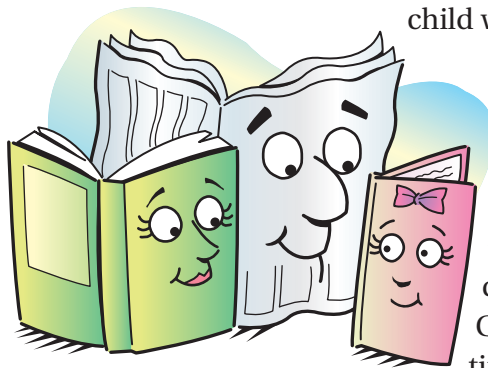
Reading for Success

Read aloud to your child

Want to strengthen your child's vocabulary, improve reading scores and have fun—all in only 10 minutes a day? Then plan a regular read-aloud time. Reading aloud is a great way to introduce children to the joys of reading. It helps children “connect” to printed words and helps them become better independent readers.

Before you begin ...

- **Plan to do it every day.** Reading time is much too important to miss.
- **Pick a regular time**—and stick to it. There is no bad time to read aloud. Some busy families even have reading time during baths or breakfast.
- **Choose from a variety of materials** (magazines, newspapers, books).
- **Pick something you like.** If you like what you're reading, it is going to show on your face and be heard in your voice.
- **Read to yourself** before you read it aloud. You'll give a better performance if you're familiar with the text.



- **See the story.** Try to see the story as you read it. If you're reading *Charlotte's Web*, imagine exactly how the words look when they're spelled out in Charlotte's web. Your voice can't help but convey the magic in the spider web.
- **Accentuate the first line.** The first line of any good story will grab the reader's attention. Your reading should make your child want to sit up and listen.

- **Don't read too fast.** Stop to talk about what's happened and guess at what might be coming.
- **Ask questions,** but don't quiz your child. Give your child plenty of time to answer.

- **Feel free to “edit.”** Skip over any material that is boring or inappropriate for your child.
- **Leave your child wanting more.** Stop a day's reading at a point when your child is eager to hear what happens next.
- **End slowly.** If you read the last line very slowly, you'll give your child a great sense of satisfaction.
- **Be willing to read the same books** more than once. Repetition helps your child learn.

While you are reading ...

- **Read with enthusiasm** and playfulness. Even try using different voices.
- **Use facial expressions.** Widen your eyes to show surprise. Squint a bit to show you're thinking.
- **Let your child see the pages clearly** and talk about the pictures that are on each page.

