



READING TO YOUR CHILD

RESOURCES: Mem Fox's Reading Magic: Why Reading Aloud to Our Children Will Change Their Lives Forever

Jim Trelease's The Read-Aloud Handbook

- *Extensive research has proven that reading aloud to a child is the single most important factor in raising a reader.*
- The more you read, the better you get, the more you like it, the more you do.
- Students who read most, read best....those who don't read much, cannot get better at it.
- Reading aloud is not teaching your child how to read, but teaching your child to want to read: it is a commercial for the pleasures of reading.
- Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist/poet Robert Penn Warren reasons for reading fiction
 - We like it.
 - There is conflict in it---and conflict is at the center of life.
 - Its conflict wakes us up from the tedium of everyday life.
 - It allows us to vent our emotions with tears, laughter, love, and hate.
 - We hope its story will give us a clue to our own life story.
 - It releases us from life's pressures by allowing us to escape into other people's lives.
- Read nonfiction text as well. Find books or articles that reflect your child's interests.
- Benefits of reading aloud to your child:
 - Increases language experiences
 - Increases background knowledge
 - Develops a love of books
 - Improves vocabulary (accounts for 80% of variance in comprehension scores)
 - Increases attention span
 - Magnifies and strengthens bond with child (Mem Fox & daughter)
 - Stimulates the imagination (much more than TV or film)
- Time myth: "we don't have the time to read aloud"—just 15 minutes a day (more if you want)
- Listening comprehension comes before reading comprehension, so you can read books above your child's reading level.
- Listening to your child read and silent reading (by the whole family) should be naturally extensions of reading aloud.
 - When listening to your child read, keep comments encouraging. Be listening to the story, not just for mistakes. Only correct your child if it affects the meaning.