

Fact Sheet—Read Aloud

Make reading time special. Think about what tips will work for children of different ages.

Reading Tips

- Preview and practice before reading a new book to children.
- Read a child's favorite book over and over again.
- Read stories with rhyming words and lines that repeat; have the child join in on these parts.
- Ask a child to use the pictures to tell a new story.
- With large print books, point out the words as you read.
- Talk about new words.
- Stop and ask about the pictures and what might happen next in the story.
- Ask why something happened, discuss what each of you liked or didn't like in a story.
- Try paired reading, which is reading aloud together, letting the child read by him- or herself and then reading together again.
- Use plenty of expression, even add voices to add emphasis and increase fun.
- Adjust your pace and volume to fit the story (for example, slow and low adds to the suspense and a clear, quick pace livens up happy, funny stories).

Best Books: Not sure what books to choose? Think about the books you remember. What made them special? The children you babysit will most likely enjoy them as well.

Favorite book as a very young child:

Favorite chapter book that I read or that an adult read to me:

You can also find wonderful reading lists for infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school-age children online at the American Library Association (www.ala.org).

- Caldecott Winners—most distinguished American picture books each year
- Newbery Winners—most distinguished American children's books each year
- Notable Children's Books—the best of the best each year from the Association for Library Service to Children