

Reading Aloud with Kids: Tips and Tricks

Prepare

- Choose a book YOU like! Your enthusiasm will shine through.
- But keep in mind some books work better with different grades (A Big Mooncake for Little Star is a great choice for PreK or K, but not so great for 3rd whereas Mango, Abuela, and Me and The Day You Begin are more appropriate for 1st and up).
- Once you choose the book you want to read, read it multiple times.
- Plan out what questions you might want to ask keeping in mind open ended questions are ideal.
- Practice “setting up” the book before you start reading. “This book is about a mom and her baby who come to the United States from Mexico. They don’t speak any English and learn how to get along in a new country. Let’s see what happens!”
- Practice reading the book out loud multiple times adding in questions. Don’t forget to include the author and illustrator when you practice as you want to pronounce the names correctly.
- Read in a loud, clear voice.
- Make sure you know how to pronounce everything correctly especially if you’re reading a book that contains a language you are not familiar with.
- Practice how you’re going to hold the book and turn pages.

For Your Visit

- HAVE FUN!
- Introduce yourself and talk a little bit about who you are and why you are excited to share the book with them. The more you can connect with kids before you read, the more likely they are to respond positively to your questions and feel comfortable asking questions themselves.
- Make sure you read the title, author, and illustrator. For younger classes (PreK and K) I typically ask if anyone knows what it is the author does and what it is the illustrator does.
- Set up the book.
- Speak slowly (probably more slowly than you are used to!) and in a clear voice.
- Make sure you allow time and move the book so everyone can see the illustrations before moving on.
- When you’re finished consider asking what kids liked about the book and share what you liked about it.