# Making the Most of Storytime

“It is the talk that surrounds the story book reading that gives it power.”

— National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) & International Reading Association

Reading aloud to young children is important, and HOW you share books can make a big difference. Research shows that following these read-aloud practices significantly improves the language skills of children who participate:

## 1. Have a conversation about a book
- Frequent conversations—back and forth exchanges
- Ask questions that require more than one word answers
- Wait long enough for responses
- Be responsive to what the child says

## 2. Model advanced language
- Repeat what your child says and add more to it:
  1. Provide new information
  2. Recast what they say with more advanced vocabulary
  3. Repeat what they say with correct grammar/word use, or a longer sentence

## 3. Prompt critical thinking skills
- Ask how and why questions
- Ask children to explain their answers
- Give clues to get them to the right answer if possible

## 4. Intentionally build vocabulary
- Reread the same book often
- Stop and explain the meaning of one or two words
- Define words using words they already know
- Ask children to repeat the words to improve their memory of the sounds in the word

## 5. Teach and provide practice of social and emotional skills
- Everyone has something valuable to say and listen to (self-regulation)
- Listen to peers with eyes and ears (self-awareness)
- Building community (relationship skills) “So you and Jamari both take a bus to the grocery with their mommies.”
### Vocabulary possibilities:
- start, prepare, welcomes,
- choose, choices, decides, ideas

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#### Pg. 1-2
Why is starting school a big important day?
What do you think Lola is doing on these pages?

#### Pg. 3-4
Who do you think that baby in the stroller might be?
What supplies did you bring to school on your first day?

#### Pg. 5-6
Why doesn’t Lola’s mommy want Lola to wear her fancy party dress?
What do you wear to school?

#### Pg. 7-8
Why might Lola be laying her clothes out before she goes to bed?
Do you bring extra clothes to school with you? Why?

#### Pg. 9-10
Lola’s mom fixed Lola’s hair. Who fixes your hair?
What is Lola doing while her mother fixes her hair? What do you eat before school?

#### Pg. 11-12
Why do you think Lola brought her toy cat Dinah to school with her?
Do you have a toy or blanket that helps you feel safe?

#### Pg. 13-14
What choices do you see Lola thinking about?
What do you choose to do at your school?

#### Pg. 15-16
When you pretend at school, what do you pretend to be? Who do you play with? Why?

#### Pg. 17-18
When your family leaves you at school, how do you feel?

#### Pg. 19-20
How is your school the same and different from Lola’s school?

#### Pg. 21-22
Tell about a song that you sing at school that has motions.
How do you get home after school is over?

#### Pg. 23-24
How do you think Lola and her mother are feeling now? Why do you think that?
How do you feel after school?