

# 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.”

**preschool  
PROMISE**



DAYTON  
METRO  
LIBRARY





**Book title:**

**Vocabulary possibilities:**

**Pg.**

**Pg.**

**Pg.**

**Pg.**

**Pg.**

**Pg.**

**Pg.**

**Pg.**

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