

# 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

**preschool  
PROMISE**



DAYTON  
METRO  
LIBRARY

## 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

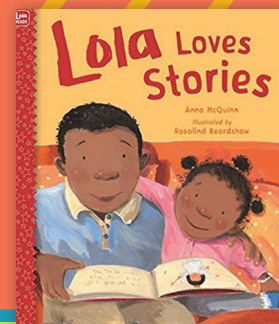
## 5. Teach and provide practice of social and emotional skills

- 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.”



## Lola Loves Stories by Anna McQuinn

**Vocabulary possibilities:** library, borrow, imagination, ideas, pretend, interests



**Pg. 1-2**

What might Lola be doing?  
How do you think she feels about going to the library?  
What do you like about a library?

**Pg. 3-4**

What is happening here?  
Does this library look like one you've been to? What is the same and what is different?

**Pg. 5-6**

Why do you think Lola borrowed a book about fairy princesses?  
What kind of books do you like?

**Pg. 7-8**

Why do you think Lola decided to dress like a fairy princess?  
What do you think a fairy princess might do?

**Pg. 9-10**

Have you ever been on a "journey"?  
Where did you go? How did you get there?  
Why does Lola have ear phones on?

**Pg. 11-12**

Who do you think might read the book to Lola this time? Who reads books to you?  
What are Lola and her friend Ben doing?  
What do you like to pretend?

**Pg. 13-14**

Why is Lola chasing her friend Orla?  
Who do you like to play chasing games with?

**Pg. 15-16**

How do you think the cow got a boo boo?  
How do you take care of your boo boos?

**Pg. 17-18**

What is Lola going to do with that hammer?  
Why is she wearing that hat?

**Pg. 19-20**

If you had magic shoes, what would you want them to do?

**Pg. 21-22**

Where do you think Lola is now?  
What time of day might it be? Why do you think that?

Blank box for student response.

Blank box for student response.

Blank box for student response.