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
### Vocabulary possibilities:
- freight, track, caboose,
- tank car, hopper car, cattle car, gondola car, box car,
- tender & steam engine, tunnel, trestle

### Freight Train by Donald Crews

**Pg. 1-2**
- Have you ever seen a train track? Tell about it.
- Why do you think a train runs on tracks instead of roads?

**Pg. 3-4**
- Which one of these train cars carries people? How do you know that?
- Did you ever travel on a train? Tell about it.
- Why might they call this a hopper car?

**Pg. 5-6**
- What might be in the purple box car?
- Why do you think businesses use trains to move things from one place to another?

**Pg. 7-8**
- Why do you think that black smoke is coming out of the train’s engine?
- Why do you think all the train cars are hooked together?

**Pg. 11-12**
- Why did the book’s illustrator make the colors of the train look like this?

**Pg. 13-14**
- Did you ever travel though a tunnel?
- Why do you think roads and train tracks go through tunnels?

**Pg. 15-16**
- What did the illustrator paint to make it look like the train was going by a city?

**Pg. 17-18**
- Why do you think builders make trestles for trains to cross?
- Did you ever see a train travel up high? Tell about it.

**Pg. 19**
- Where do you think the train might be going?
- If you could take a train ride, where would you like to go?