

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 or 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

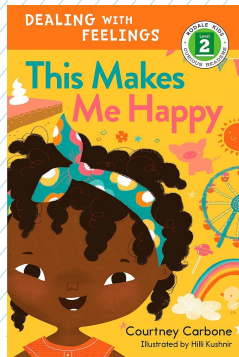
- Everyone has something valuable to say and listen to (self-regulation)
- Listen to peers with eyes and ears (self-awareness)
- Building community (relationship skills)
“So you and Jamari both take a bus to the grocery with their mommies.”

preschool
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
PROMISE

because the first 5 years matter



This Makes Me Silly by Courtney Carbone



Vocabulary possibilities:

excited, calm, county fair, allergic

preschool
PROMISE

because the first 5 years matter

PAGE QUESTIONS

2-3 Have you ever been to a fair? Tell me about it. For what reasons do the kids have to stay in their seats?

4-5 Let's practice taking a belly breath. How does it feel to take a deep breath? What does it mean to feel calm? Do these children seem calm? How do you know?

6-7 What do you see? What is there to do at the fair? What does it mean to have butterflies in your tummy? How do you think the girl is feeling?

8-9 What kind of surprises can you share? If you could surprise your friends, what would you do? What would you show them?

10-11 What can you do to help when you have to wait? Have you ever been on a roller coaster? What was it like?

12-13 What do you think a pie eating contest is like? What do you do to celebrate when you're excited? Have you ever won a race or contest? Tell me about it.

14-15 What's the highest number you can count to? How does it feel in your body to feel happy?

PAGE QUESTIONS

16-17 What animals do you see? What animals would you like to pet? Why?

18-19 How else would you describe the chicks? What makes you feel big and strong?

20-21 What does it mean to be allergic? Do you have any allergies? How do you think she feels when she can't eat the treats?

22-23 Have you ever felt left out? What happened? How is the girl helping? What did she do?

24-25 What does it mean to feel like a hot air balloon? Have you ever had a happy day like this? Tell me what made it happy.

27-28 What do you think gave her the feeling? What about the fair would you have enjoyed most?

29-30 What type of games do you like to play? What animals would you like to see at a fair?

31-32 Close your eyes. Tell me about a happy memory. What about the memory makes you happy?