

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

preschool
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PROMISE

because the first 5 years matter

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.”



There's a Dragon In Your Book by Tom Fletcher



Vocabulary possibilities:

hatch, accidentally, imagination, adventure

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PAGE	QUESTIONS	PAGE	QUESTIONS
2-3	What could be in the egg? How do you know it is ready to hatch?	16-17	What do you think will happen when the balloon pops? What sound will it make when the balloon pops?
4-5	What do you know about dragons? Have you ever seen an egg hatch before? Tell me about it.	18-19	What is happening here? Where did the fire go? Where will the water go?
6-7	What happened here? Tell me what you see in this picture.	20-21	The dragon is hungry. What should we feed it? What do you think dragons eat?
8-9	What should we do to put out the fire? what will happen if we blow on the flames?	22-23	What's your favorite flavor of ice cream? If you had a treat, what would it be?
10-11	Oh no! What should we do now? What do you think will happen next?	24-25	Where do you think the dragon lives? How can we help the dragon fly home?
12-13	What do you think would put out this fire? If you were the dragon, what would you do?	26-27	Show me how you would move your wings if you were a dragon. What do you think it feels like to fly?
14-15	What does it mean to use your imagination? Imagine the water balloon. Describe it to me.	28-29	Wave goodbye to the dragon. How would a dragon wave? What do you think is on the next page?
		30-31	What's happening here with the eggs? What will happen if we turn the page?