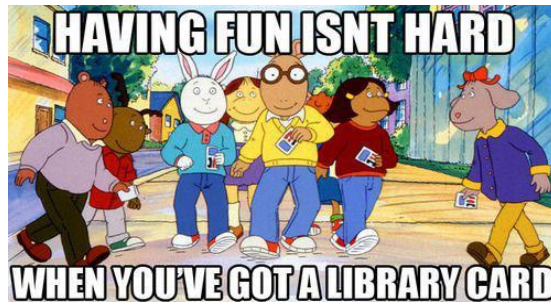




Literacy

"Having fun isn't hard when you've got a library card!"



Reading aloud helps children learn early language skills.

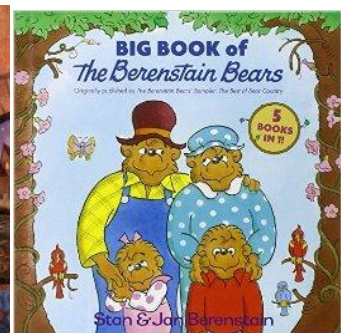
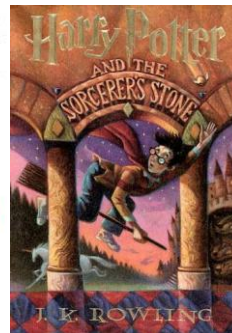
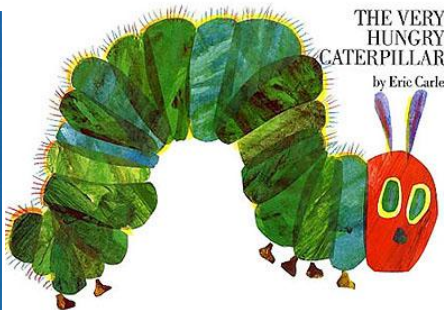
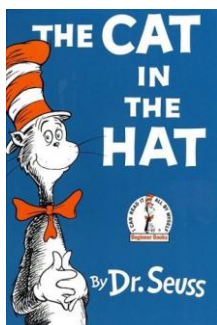
- It is the single most important activity leading to language development.
- Reading helps build motivation, curiosity, and memory.
- Reading out loud stimulates language development before a child can even talk.

Reading aloud helps children develop positive associations with books and reading.

- The one-on-one attention from parents during reading encourages children to form a positive relationship with books and reading later on in life. That time can also be a positive bonding experience for both the child and the parents.
- Reading is a proven technique to help children cope during times of stress or tragedy.

Reading aloud helps children build a stronger foundation for school success.

- Once children start school, if they have a hard time reading, it can contribute to school failure. School failure can contribute to juvenile delinquency, substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, etc.
- Reading in the early years exposes children to story and print knowledge as well as rare words and ideas not found in screen time.
- Reading aloud gives children the opportunity to practice listening, which is a crucial skill for kindergarten and beyond.





How can you make books a part of your everyday life?

- Make time to read. Life can be really busy, but it is so important to make time to read to your children. If you have a tight schedule, start with books at bedtime. It can become part of your bedtime routine. The children will love the bonding time, as well as the stories.
- Children learn by example. If they see you reading, they are more likely to want to read themselves.
- Children love screens and technology. There are apps that can help a child read, but they will never replace the power of picking up a book. Try to limit screen time and encourage books.
- Children may be tempted to throw the books or tear out pages, you can buy used books at your local thrift stores. However, if you teach them to love and respect books because they are important, they can learn how to treat books better. It takes a little bit of practice and patience.
- Give your children the opportunity to go to your local library. Library cards are free! Going to the library encourages them to pick out books that they are interested in, gives them choices to read, teaches them responsibility to care for and return the books, and it teaches them how to be quiet in specific settings.
- Libraries often have designated story times. Encourage your family to go as often as you can. Sitting and listening to a story in a public place helps teach listening skills, good manners, and how powerful a story can be.
- When your child is reading a book, ask them questions about it. It helps them with their memory skills, cognitive skills, and shows that you are interested in what they are learning. It allows good conversations to flow, which will also increase their language skills.
- Find books that you used to read as a child and share them with your children. It will be a fun bonding experience for everyone.

(source: <http://www.reachoutandread.org/why-we-work/importance-of-reading-aloud/>. Pictures from Google.)