

Read Aloud

In **Read Aloud** someone reads a story, book of fiction, news article, picture book, essay, poem or trade book to another person. The **Read Aloud** is usually done to develop the enjoyment of reading in young children. The **Read Aloud** helps to develop vocabulary knowledge, background knowledge, critical thinking skills and focused listening skills. Children usually ask questions about the **Read Aloud** selection, and these questions lead to explanations, making connections, and questions by the reader.

Keep in mind:

- Read to children every day for at least 20 minutes. It is easy to eliminate reading aloud from your schedule but remember that reading aloud is critical to children's reading and writing development.
- Read several books a day so children get used to hearing rich language, various text structures, a variety of genre and include picture books at ALL levels.
- There should be an equal balance of fiction and non-fiction.

Before the read:

- Do the students have adequate background knowledge?
- Students should discuss the title, and information provided about the author and illustrator. Students search the cover illustration for clues about the story before making predictions about the content. They are encouraged to support their predictions by citing personal experiences.

Responding to the read:

- Students reflect on materials that have been read to them. Reflection is essential to develop critical thinking skills.
- Students are encouraged to support their responses with evidence from the text and personal experiences.