



# The Bear Facts



August, 2006

## **DOES READING ALOUD TO MY CHILDREN REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN HOW WELL THEY DO IN SCHOOL?**

Education experts agree that reading aloud at home is the single most important activity parents can do to help their children develop as readers ... and that **KIDS WHO READ SUCCEED.**

- Teachers can tell which students have been read to: they have better communication and thinking skills.
- When you read to your children they learn that reading is fun and that you value it. They hear new words and ideas. They learn basics, such as knowing that words are built out of letters, and that each story has a beginning, middle and an end.
- Children's attention spans grow as they learn to listen to whole stories. This will help them in all their future learning.
- Children who have been read to from a wide variety of books -- folk tales, fairy tales, poetry, picture books, children's novels, fiction and non-fiction -- develop a richer well of examples from which to draw when they begin putting their own ideas into writing.
- Time spent reading to your children builds memories that will last a lifetime. It's a sharing time for both you.



## Tips for Parents On Reading Aloud

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1. Have FUN reading aloud!
2. Talk about the book and ask open-ended questions that do not have only right or wrong answers. This will encourage your child's verbal expression, critical thinking, and imagination. Some questions you can ask, at appropriate times during the story are:
  - What would you do if you were the character in the book?
  - What do you think might happen next?
  - How would you add to the ending of the story?
3. Read aloud at least 20 minutes each day. This will allow your child to hear 1 million more words a year.
4. Extend the book with activities such as cooking and art.
5. Have books available in many rooms: bathroom, bedroom, kitchen, living room, etc.
6. Use your library and buy books at GOOD bookstores (not toy stores, supermarkets, or drug stores). Borrow and buy only the best in children's books. Ask your librarian or bookstore manager for ideas.
7. Read more books by an author or illustrator you like.
8. Occasionally move your finger with the words, across the page, from left to right to show your child the direction of print.
9. Let your child read books of her or his choice, but try to use your read aloud time for books of the highest quality that challenge your child and will increase her or his vocabulary knowledge.

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Source: Children's Literacy Initiative  
<http://www.cliontheweb.org/parents.html#readingaloud>

