

## Reading Aloud: Suggestions for Parents

### Use the Pictures

- Point to the picture and ask:
  - What is happening?
  - What is going to happen next?
  - Why did she do that?
  - Is this like you?
    - Has this ever happened to you? Do you have one of those?

### Help the child to relate the story to his/her life

- In the story, be aware of something your child might have experienced
- Ask: Has anything like that ever happened to you?
- Listen and encourage the conversation
- Other good questions:
  - Have you ever done something like that?
  - He seems a lot like you – why do you think I said that?
  - Remember when...
- For older preschoolers:
  - Try asking harder questions that might relate to emotions or feelings.
    - For example: The little boy in the story just kept trying harder and harder. Have you ever felt that way?

### Identify the sounds of the alphabet

- Point to the picture and ask the child to identify the object (for example – point to the dog).
  - Ask what sound the word starts with (D – Dog). Emphasized that sound d-d-d.
  - Ask: What other words start with d-d-d (dad, dime, donut, David).
- Find something else on the page (or a different page).
  - Ask: There is something on this page that begins with an “mmm” sound (or whatever is appropriate). What is it? (e.g. MOUSE).
- Have your child identify a favorite thing (bike).
  - Ask child to think of other things that start with the b-b-b sound (bear, book, berries)
- Make a game of it in the store or while traveling: I am looking for something on the store shelf that starts with a b-b-b- sound (BREAD).
- Alternative: Go through the alphabet and have the child think of a word for each letter.

### More complex letter and rhyme recognition

- Write down a few short words: cat, bee
- Say the words
- Change the first letter of each to change the meaning (change cat to bat, change bee to see)
- Let your child try (helping him/her is OK, e.g. what letter makes a f-f-f-sound: “f” changes bat to fat)

### Suggestions for reading aloud: Use the C.A.R. method.

C – Comment on something in the story and wait (give the child time to respond).

A – Ask a question and wait (count to five in your head – don’t answer for the child).

R – Respond to your child’s comment by adding a little more – e.g. a more complex sentence, a new word, or more about the topic.