Reading Aloud with Children who have Speech and Language Delay

Reading aloud with loved ones is part of a happy childhood and helps your child develop and learn. A child with Speech and Language Delay may not understand every word, but will enjoy cuddling with you to share a book. Over time, reading aloud can also strengthen speech and language skills, by making reading fun. It’s a way to give your child a gift that will last a lifetime—a love of books.

READING TIPS FOR YOUR

Infant or Toddler

- **Read together when it’s fun and relaxing.** Younger children may be easily distracted, so start by reading for just a few minutes at a time.

- **Read the same story many times.** Children enjoy the repetition and it helps them learn language.

- **Use books with rhymes or songs.** Clap along to the rhythm and help your child clap with you. As the child grows, suggest filling in words. “Twinkle twinkle little star, How I wonder what you ....”

- **Point to pictures and talk about them.** “Look at the silly monkey!” And ask your child to point at certain things. “Where’s the cat?”

- **Talk about things in the story that your child knows.** “That bear has blue pajamas just like you!”

- **Ask questions about the story.** “Is that bunny hiding?” As your child grows, ask harder questions. “What do you think will happen next?”

READING TIPS FOR YOUR

Preschool or School-Age Child

- **Talk with your child about why things happen in the story.** “Why do you think the monkey stole the key?”

- **Ask about letter sounds.** While pointing at a picture of a snake, ask “What sound does a snake make?” As your child grows, ask harder questions. “What sound does ‘ball’ start with?”

- **Play sound games.** List words that rhyme (“ball”, “tall”) or words that start with the same sound (“mommy”, “mix”).

- **Help your child draw pictures of the story.** This helps the child learn to read and write at the same time.

INFANT OR TODDLER
SUGGESTED BOOKS

- Mother Goose Rhymes or Dr. Seuss books with rhyming stories
- *Each Peach Pear Plum* by Allan and Janet Ahlberg
- *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault
- Sign and Sing Along Series (*Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star, Baa Baa Black Sheep, Itsy Bitsy Spider*)
  by Annie Kubler

PRESCHOOL OR SCHOOL-AGE
SUGGESTED BOOKS

- Funny or silly books are a good choice for this age group. Some titles include:
  - *Does a Chimp Wear Clothes?* by Fred Ehrlich
  - *Hippos Go Berserk!* by Sandra Boynton
  - *Mr. Brown Can Moo! Can You?* by Dr. Seuss
RESOURCES

BOOKS FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Let’s Talk About Stuttering (Ages 4–8)  
by Susan Kent (1999)

Coping with Stuttering (Ages 9–12)  
by Melanie Ann Apel (2000)

Sammy Goes to Speech (Ages 3–7)  
by Marissa Siegel (2018)

Aidan Goes to Speech (Ages 4–7)  
by Lisa Mortensen (2018)

BOOKS FOR PARENTS

Childhood Speech, Language, and Listening Problems  
by Patricia Hamaguchi (1995)

The New Language of Toys: Teaching Communication Skills to Children with Special Needs  
by Sue Schwartz (2004)

The Parent’s Guide to Speech and Language Problems  
by Debbie Feit and Heidi Feldman (2007)

Speaking of Apraxia: A Parents’ Guide to Childhood Apraxia of Speech  
by Leslie Lindsay (2012)

Childhood Speech and Language Disorders: Supporting Children and Families on the Path to Communication (Whole Family Approaches to Childhood Illnesses and Disorders)  
by Suzanne M. Ducharme (2016)

ORGANIZATIONS  
Additional web resources are available at reachoutandread.org/ddresources

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
asha.org

Apraxia–KIDS (The Childhood Apraxia of Speech Association)  
apraxia-kids.org

Speechville Express  
speechville.com

General Information about Speech and Language Disorders  
ldonline.org/article/6336

Healthy Children from the American Academy of Pediatrics  
healthychildren.org

AAP National Center for Medical Home Implementation  
medicalhomeinfo.aap.org

DID YOU KNOW? Smart Ways to Use Media and Technology

- Young children learn more from reading or playing games with family than from using phones, computers, tablets, or watching TV.
- For children under two, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) advises using electronic media only for video phone calls with people who are very familiar to them.
- For older children, the AAP suggests no more than one hour a day of high-quality programs (such as Public Television).
- TV and other visual media are more meaningful when you watch together and ask your child to describe what’s happening.
- If it’s too hard to limit electronic devices, it may be a good idea to remove them completely.
- Putting away your own phone or tablet when you talk or read with your child can help the moment be more enjoyable for both of you.
- For more information on media and technology use, visit healthychildren.org/english/family-life/media/pages/default.aspx
Reading Aloud with Children who have Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Reading aloud with loved ones is part of a happy childhood and helps your child develop and learn. A child with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) may have trouble looking at you or at pictures in a book, or may not understand every word. But your child will enjoy cuddling with you and sharing a book, even for a short time. Reading can help in situations where a child does not like certain textures and activities, or has trouble getting along with other kids. Your child’s teacher or therapist can show you how. Over time, reading aloud can also strengthen speech and language skills, by making reading fun. It’s a way to give your child a gift that will last a lifetime—a love of books.

**READING TIPS FOR YOUR Toddler**

- Read together when your child is relaxed and paying attention, such as before bedtime.
- Read books that have photos and drawings of faces. These can help your child recognize feelings.
- Read the same story many times. Children enjoy the repetition and it helps them learn language.
- Point to pictures and talk about them. “Look at the silly monkey!” You can also ask your child to point at certain things. “Where’s the cat?”
- Find books that repeat words many times. Books with rhymes are also good.
- Softly clap your hands and help your child clap along to the rhythm of the words.
- Try books with buttons that make a sound when pushed. Many children with ASD enjoy these.

**READING TIPS FOR YOUR Preschool or School-Age child**

- Talk with your child about why things happen in the story. “Why do you think the monkey stole the key?”
- Read during the times between daily activities, such as after school or before dinner.
- Play sound games. List words that rhyme (“ball”, “tall”) or start with the same sound (“mommy”, “mix”).
- Help your child draw pictures of the story. This helps the child learn to read and write at the same time.

**TODDLER SUGGESTED BOOKS**

- *Babies* (also *Feelings or Babies on the Move*)
  by Susan Canizares

- *Global Babies*
  by Mara Ajmera

- *Smile!*
  by Roberta Grobel Intrater

- *Lots of Feelings*
  by Shelley Rotner

**PRESCHOOL OR SCHOOL-AGE SUGGESTED BOOKS**

- *The Feelings Book*
  by Todd Parr

- *My Many Colored Days*
  By Dr. Seuss

- *Llama, Llama Mad at Mama*
  By Anna Dewdney

Books by Simms Taback such as *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly* and *This is the House that Jack Built*

- *Lyle Lyle Crocodile*
  by Bernard Waber

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A resource for caregivers from Reach Out and Read | reachoutandread.org
DID YOU KNOW? Smart Ways to Use Media and Technology

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- If it’s too hard to limit electronic devices, it may be a good idea to remove them completely.

- For older children, the AAP suggests no more than one hour a day of high-quality programs (such as Public Television).

- Putting away your own phone or tablet when you talk or read with your child can help the moment be more enjoyable for both of you.

- For more information on media and technology use, visit healthychildren.org/ english/family-life/media/pages/default.aspx

TV and other visual media are more meaningful when you watch together and ask your child to describe what’s happening.

RESOURCES

BOOKS FOR OLDER CHILDREN

- My Brother Charlie (Ages 4–8) by Holly Robinson Peete and Ryan Elizabeth Peete (2010)
- Autism and Me (Ages 5–12) by Ouisie Shapiro (2009)
- Ian’s Walk (Ages 4–8) by Laurie Lears and Karen Ritz (1998)
- Andy and his Yellow Frisbee (Ages 5–10) by Mary Thompson (1996)

BOOKS FOR PARENTS

- The New Social Story Book by Carol Gray (2015)
- Essential First Steps for Parents of Children with Autism: Helping the Littlest Learners by Lara Delmomo and Sandra L. Harris (2013)
- Autism Intervention Every Day!: Embedding Activities in Daily Routines for Young Children and Their Families by Merle Crawford and Barbara Weber (2016)
- Getting from Me to We: How to Help Young Children Fit in and Make Friends by Shonna L. Tuck (2015)
- Ten Things Every Child with Autism Wishes You Knew by Ellen Notbohm (2012)

ORGANIZATIONS

- Autism Society of America: autism-society.org
- Autism Speaks - First 100 Days Toolkit: autismspeaks.org/family-services/tool-kits/100-day-kit
- Easter Seals - Autism Services: easterseals.com/our-programs/autism-services/
- First Signs: firstsigns.org
- National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Autism Fact Sheet: ninds.nih.gov/Disorders/All-Disorders/Autism-Spectrum-Disorder-Information-Page
- Healthy Children from the American Academy of Pediatrics: healthychildren.org
Reading Aloud with Children with who have Learning Style Differences

Reading aloud with loved ones is part of a happy childhood and helps your child develop and learn. Your child’s healthcare provider or teacher may have concerns (“red flags”) about the way your child is learning. With a book, there are many fun ways your child can cuddle with you and learn about letters, words, rhymes, and numbers. Often, a child will start repeating words or telling you more about the story. Over time, reading aloud can strengthen speech and language skills, by making reading fun. It’s a way to give your child a gift that will last a lifetime—a love of books.

READING TIPS FOR YOUR Preschool or School-Age Child

- **Read together when your child is relaxed and paying attention**, such as before bedtime.
- **Read the same story many times.** This can help your child learn how pictures go with words and how words sound.
- **Talk about things in the story that your child knows.** “That bear has blue pajamas just like you!”
- **Say and repeat the sounds of a word in a playful way** so that your child can hear and repeat letter sounds. While pointing to a picture of a snake, ask “What sound does a snake make?”
- **Point to letters on the page and sound them out.** You can also ask your child to sound out the letters with you. “Look at the ‘B’ in boy! Let’s say it together.”
- **As your child grows, ask harder questions.** While pointing to a picture of a ball, ask “What sound does ‘ball’ start with?” “What do you think happens next?”
- **Play sound games.** List words that rhyme (“ball,” “tall”) or start with the same sound (“mommy,” “mix”).
- **Use books with rhymes or songs.** Clap together to each part of the word. Ask your child to say each part by itself. “Look at the big elephant. Say it with me: EL-E-PHANT.”
- **Help your child draw pictures of the story.** This helps the child learn to read and write at the same time.

PRESCHOOL OR SCHOOL-AGE SUGGESTED BOOKS

- **LMNO Peas**
  By Keith Baker

- **Llama, Llama Red Pajama**
  by Anna Dewdney

- **Is Your Mama a Llama?**
  by Deborah Guarino
**RESOURCES**

**BOOKS FOR OLDER CHILDREN**

- *Here’s Hank (12 Book Series)* (Ages 5-8) by Henry Winkler, Lin Oliver (2014)
- *That’s Like Me: Stories About Amazing People with Learning Differences* (Ages 8 and older) by Jill Lauren (2009)
- *Thank You, Mr. Falker* (Ages 5 and older) by Patricia Polacco (2012)
- *A Boy and a Jaguar* (Ages 4-7) by Alan Rabinowitz (2014)
- *Hooway for Wodney Wat* (Ages 4-7) by Helen Lester (2002)
- *Back to Front and Upside Down* (Ages 4-7) by Claire Alexander (2012)

**BOOKS FOR PARENTS**


**ORGANIZATIONS**

- Understood: For Learning and Attention Issues
  understood.org
- Reading Rockets
  readingrockets.org
- LD Navigator
  ldnavigator.ncld.org
- LD Online
  ldonline.org
- National Center for Learning Disabilities
  ncld.org
- International Dyslexia Association
dyslexiaida.org
- Healthy Children from the American Academy of Pediatrics
  healthychildren.org

**DID YOU KNOW? Smart Ways to Use Media and Technology**

- Young children learn more from reading or playing games with family than from using phones, computers, tablets, or watching TV.
- For children under two, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) advises using electronic media only for video phone calls with people who are very familiar to them.
- For older children, the AAP suggests no more than one hour a day of high-quality programs (such as Public Television).
- TV and other visual media are more meaningful when you watch together and ask your child to describe what’s happening.
- If it’s too hard to limit electronic devices, it may be a good idea to remove them completely.
- Putting away your own phone or tablet when you talk or read with your child can help the moment be more enjoyable for both of you.
- For more information on media and technology use, visit healthychildren.org/english/family-life/media/pages/default.aspx.
Reading Aloud with Children who have Motor Delay

Reading aloud with loved ones is part of a happy childhood and helps your child develop and learn. A child with a motor delay may also have delayed, or hard to understand, speech, and may not be able to sit without help. But your child will enjoy cuddling with you and sharing a colorful and interesting book. Over time, reading aloud can help motor skills, speech and language development, and play. Reading aloud makes it fun and gives your child a gift that will last a lifetime – the love of books.

READING TIPS FOR YOUR

Infant or Toddler

- **Read together at a time of day when reading is fun and relaxing.**
- **Use books that have thick, sturdy pages.**
- **Read books that have rhymes**, like Mother Goose or Dr. Seuss.
- **Clap your hands and help your child clap along** to the rhythm of the words.
- **Talk about the pictures while you read.** Help your toddler point to certain things in the book.

Preschool or School-Age Child

- **Read together when your child is relaxed and paying attention**, such as before bedtime or after a trip to the park.
- **Talk about the pictures while you read.** Ask your child to name things or read aloud.
- **Find books about** things your child enjoys, like animals or sports.
- **Sit with your child.** If your child is in a wheelchair or special chair, sit where the child can see the book and hear you. Ask the therapist about special tools to help your child prop up or turn the pages.
- **Try books with buttons** that make a sound when pushed, or audio books the child can start or stop.
- **Help your child draw pictures of the story.** This helps the child learn to read and write at the same time.

INFANT OR TODDLER

SUGGESTED BOOKS

- **Stroller Strap Books** are easy to handle and the sturdy pages stay open and are easy to turn.
- **E-Z Page Turners** are designed to help young children turn the pages. Available online or ask your child’s occupational therapist. Titles include: *Trucks, Opposites, and Mommies and Babies*

PRESCHOOL OR SCHOOL-AGE

SUGGESTED BOOKS

- **Harold and the Purple Crayon** by Crockett Johnson
- **We’re Going on a Bear Hunt** by Helen Oxenbury
- **Hello, Goodbye Dog** by Maria Gianferrari
- **Susan Laughs** by Jeannie Willis
RESOURCES

BOOKS FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Brothers and Sisters (Ages 5-8) by Laura Dwight (2005)

Living with a Brother or Sister with Special Needs (Ages 4-10) by Donald Meyer and Patricia Vadasy (1996)

Views from Our Shoes (Ages 8-12) by Donald Meyer (1997)

Don’t Call Me Special: A First Look at Disability (Ages 8-12) by Pat Thomas (2005)


BOOKS FOR PARENTS

Cerebral Palsy: A Complete Guide for Caregiving by Freeman Miller and Steven J. Bachrach (2017)


The Cerebral Palsy Tool Kit: From Diagnosis to Understanding by Michele P Shusterman (2015)

ORGANIZATIONS Additional web resources are available at reachoutandread.org/ddresources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cdc.gov/actearly

Easter Seals easterseals.com

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, National Institutes of Health ninds.nih.gov

United Cerebral Palsy Association ucp.org

NIH: Cerebral Palsy nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/cerebral-palsy

Healthy Children from the American Academy of Pediatrics healthychildren.org

Muscular Dystrophy Association mda.org

DID YOU KNOW? Smart Ways to Use Media and Technology

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- For older children, the AAP suggests no more than one hour a day of high-quality programs (such as Public Television).

- TV and other visual media are more meaningful when you watch together and ask your child to describe what’s happening.

- If it’s too hard to limit electronic devices, it may be a good idea to remove them completely.

- Putting away your own phone or tablet when you talk or read with your child can help the moment be more enjoyable for both of you.

- You can find more information like this at healthychildren.org/english/family-life/media/pages/default.aspx
Reading Aloud with Children who have Vision Loss

Reading aloud with loved ones is part of a happy childhood and helps your child develop and learn. A child with vision loss may have difficulty seeing pictures on a page or reading words. But your child will enjoy cuddling with you and hearing an interesting story. And feeling textures on a page can prepare your child for learning Braille. Work together with your child’s therapists and teachers to learn how reading can help with motor skills, development of speech and language, and play. Reading aloud makes it fun and gives your child a gift that will last a lifetime – the love of books.

READING TIPS FOR YOUR INFANT or TODDLER

- Read where there is plenty of light to help your child see the page.
- Clap your hands and help your child clap along to the rhythm of the words.
- Choose books that help your child learn parts of their body.
- Talk about the pictures while you read the text.
- Find books that have textures, pop-ups, or raised soft shapes. Name the shapes.
- Try books with buttons that make a sound when pushed.
- For a child with little or no sight, help the child become familiar with Braille. Use early Braille books or twin vision books with pictures, print, and Braille.

READING TIPS FOR YOUR PRESCHOOL or SCHOOL-AGE CHILD

- Read together when it can be fun and relaxing, such as bedtime or after a trip to the park.
- Read where there is plenty of light to help your child see the page.
- Large print books can make reading easier.
- Find books on topics that interest him, such as animals or sports.
- Try audio books that your child can start or stop.
- While reading to your child, use real objects from the book that the child can feel and explore.

INFANT OR TODDLER SUGGESTED BOOKS

- Books that have soft or textured shapes or pop-out pieces to feel and name.
  - *Pat the Bunny* by Dorothy Kunhardt (and other Touch and Feel books)
  - *DK Braille: Animals* (and other titles)
  - *How Do Dinosaurs Eat Cookies?* by Jane Yolen
  - *Black & White* by Tana Hoban

PRESCHOOL OR SCHOOL-AGE SUGGESTED BOOKS

- *Mr. Brown Can Moo! Can You?* by Dr. Seuss (use with plastic or stuffed animals)
- *Books with wheels or parts that move*
  - *The Black Book of Colors* by Menena Cottin and Rosana Faria
  - *If You’re Happy and You Know It* by Annie Kubler
RESOURCES

BOOKS FOR OLDER CHILDREN

*Knots on a Counting Rope* (Ages 4-8)
by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault (1997)

*Blindsided* (YA)
by Priscilla Cummings (2011)

*My Three Best Friends and Me, Zulay* (Ages 4-8)
by Cari Best (2015)

*The Heart of Applebutter Hill* (YA)
by Donna W. Hill (2013)

*Adventures of Abby Diamond* (Ages 10-12)
by Kristie Smith-Armand (2009)

*Max the Champion* (Ages 4-8)
by Sean Stockdale (2014)

BOOKS FOR PARENTS

*Children with Visual Impairments: A Guide for Parents*
edited by Cay Holbrook (2006)

*Experiencing Literacy: A Parents’ Guide for Fostering Literacy Development of Children with Visual Impairments*
by Cay Holbrook and Alan Koenig (2005)

*Reach Out and Teach: Helping Your Child Who is Visually Impaired Learn and Grow*
by Kay Alicyn Ferrell (2011)

ORGANIZATIONS

- American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults
  actionfund.org
- American Foundation for the Blind
  afb.org
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
  cdc.gov/actearly
- American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus
  aapos.org
- National Association for Parents of Children with Visual Impairments
  napvi.org
- National Eye Institute/National Institutes of Health
  nei.nih.gov
- American Academy of Ophthalmology
  aao.org/eye-health/diseases/low-vision
- Perkins eLearning
  perkinselalearning.org
- American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults - Free Braille Books Program
  actionfund.org/free-braille-books

DID YOU KNOW? Smart Ways to Use Media and Technology

- Young children learn more from reading or playing games with family than from using phones, computers, tablets, or watching TV. Talk with your child’s medical provider about the best way for your child with vision loss to connect with electronic media.

- For children under two, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) advises using electronic media only for video phone calls with people who are very familiar to them.

- For older children, the AAP suggests no more than one hour a day of high-quality programs (such as Public Television).

- TV and other visual media are more meaningful when you watch together and ask your child to describe what’s happening.

- If it’s too hard to limit electronic devices, it may be a good idea to remove them completely.

- Putting away your own phone or tablet when you talk or read with your child can help the moment be more enjoyable for both of you.

- You can find more information like this at healthychildren.org/english/family-life/media/pages/default.aspx
Reading Aloud with Children who have Hearing Loss

Reading aloud with loved ones is part of a happy childhood and helps your child develop and learn. A child with hearing loss might not be able to hear or understand some of the words in a story, or tell you the names of things on the page. But your child will enjoy cuddling with you and sharing a colorful and interesting book. Over time, reading aloud can also strengthen speech and language skills, by making reading fun. It’s a way to give your child a gift that will last a lifetime—a love of books.

READING TIPS FOR YOUR

**Infant or Toddler**

- **Turning pages, touching the pictures, and reading books with flaps** will give your child practice using their hands, which gets your child ready to learn sign language.
- **Read together at a time of day when reading can be fun and relaxing.**
- **Learn and use simple sign language as you read.**
- **Read the same story many times.** This can help your child learn words that may have been missed before. Explain the story if you need to.
- **Make sure your child can see your face and the pictures.** This will make it easier to follow the story, even if the child doesn’t catch all the words.

READING TIPS FOR YOUR

**Preschool or School-Age Child**

- **Sit together to read when your child is relaxed and paying attention, such as before bedtime or after a trip to the park.**
- **Make sure your child can see your face and the pictures.** This will make it easier to follow the story, even if the child doesn’t catch all the words.
- **Use stuffed animals to act out the story.**
- **Continue to teach your child to sign.**
- **Help your child draw pictures of the story.** This helps the child learn to read and write at the same time.

**INFANT OR TODDLER SUGGESTED BOOKS**

- **Baby Signs**
  by Joy Allen
- **My First Book of Sign Language**
  by Joan Holub
- **Sign and Sing Along Series (Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star, Baa Baa Black Sheep, Itsy Bitsy Spider)**
  by Annie Kubler
- Books by Anthony Lewis such as **Meal Time, My First Book of Animal Signs, and Play Time**

**PRESCHOOL OR SCHOOL-AGE SUGGESTED BOOKS**

- **Sign Language, My First 100 Words**
  by Michiyo Nelson
- **One Trick for One Treat: Sign Language for Numbers and others**
  by Dawn Babb Prochovnic
- **Splish, Splat!**
  by Alexis Domney
- **Each Peach Pear Plum**
  by Allan and Janet Ahlberg
- **Jamberry**
  by Bruce Degen
- **Sheep in a Jeep**
  by Nancy Shaw
RESOURCES

BOOKS FOR OLDER CHILDREN

- Jordan Has A Hearing Loss (Ages 4–8)
  by Jillian Powell (2004)

- Taking Hearing Impairment to School (Ages 5–10)
  by Elaine Ernst Schneider (2004)

- A Button in Her Ear (Ages 5–10)
  by Ada B. Litchfield (1976)

- Can You Hear a Rainbow? (Ages 4–8)
  by Jamee Riggio Heelan (2002)

- I Have a Sister - My Sister Is Deaf
  (Ages 4–8)
  by Jeanne Whitehouse Peterson (1984)

BOOKS FOR PARENTS

- Choices in Deafness: A Parents’ Guide to Communication Options
  edited by Sue Schwartz (2007)

- Promoting Language and Literacy in Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
  by Mary Pat Moeller, David J. Ertmer and Carol Stoel-Gammon (2016)

- Understanding Childhood Hearing Loss: Whole Family Approaches to Living and Thriving
  by Brian J. Fligor (2015)

- The Parenting Journey: Raising Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children
  by Karen Putz (2012)

- Raising and Educating a Deaf Child: A Comprehensive Guide to the Choices, Controversies, and Decisions Faced by Parents and Educators
  by Marc Marschark (2017)

- How Deaf Children Learn: What Parents and Teachers Need to Know (Perspectives on Deafness)
  by Marc Marschark (2011)

ORGANIZATIONS

- Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf
  agbell.org

- American Society for Deaf Children
  deafchildren.org

- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
  asha.org

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
  cdc.gov/actearly

- Raising Deaf Kids
  raisingdeafkids.org

- Healthy Children from the American Academy of Pediatrics
  healthychildren.org

- NIH: Hearing Loss
  nidcd.nih.gov

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  electronic media only for video phone calls with people who are very familiar to them.

- For older children, the AAP suggests no more than one hour a day of high-quality programs
  (such as Public Television).

- TV and other visual media are more meaningful when you watch together and ask
  your child to describe what’s happening.

- If it’s too hard to limit electronic devices, it may be a good idea to remove them
  completely.

- Putting away your own phone or tablet when you talk or read with your child can help the
  moment be more enjoyable for both of you.

- You can find more information like this at
  healthychildren.org/english/family-life/media/pages/default.aspx
Reading Aloud with Children who have Short Attention, High Activity Level, or ADHD

Reading aloud with loved ones is a part of a happy childhood and helps your child develop and learn. A child with Short Attention, High Activity Level, or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) may be very active or have trouble following directions, waiting, or taking turns. But your child will enjoy cuddling with you and sharing a colorful or interesting book, even for a short time. Over time, reading aloud can also strengthen speech and language skills, by making reading fun. It's a way to give your child a gift that will last a lifetime—a love of books.

READING TIPS FOR YOUR Toddler

- Sing along while reading the book.
- Talk about the pictures and read the story. Help your child point to objects in the book. Ask questions about the story to hold your child’s interest.
- Break up reading with play.
- Continue to read for a few more minutes even if your child starts doing something else. A child may still be listening to the story even while playing.
- Read before naps and bedtime to help him settle down.

READING TIPS FOR YOUR Preschool or School-Age Child

- Sit together to read when your child is relaxed and paying attention, after returning from the park or before bedtime.
- Read in a quiet spot and turn off electronics.
- Find books about things that interest your child, such as animals or sports. Let the child pick books and ask to read aloud.
- Talk about the pictures while you read aloud.
- Praise your child’s reading!
- Help your child draw pictures of the story. This helps the child learn to read and write at the same time.
**RESOURCES**

**BOOKS FOR OLDER CHILDREN**

- *All Dogs Have ADHD* (Ages 4–9)
  by Kathy Hoopmann (2008)

- *My Friend Has ADHD* (Ages 4–10)
  by Kristin Sorra and Amanda Doering Tourville (2010)

- *Shelley, The Hyperactive Turtle* (Ages 4 and older)
  by Deborah M. Moss (1989)

- *Mrs. Gorski, I Think I Have the Wiggle Fidgets* (Ages 5–8)
  by Barbara Esham (2018)

- *Terrific Teddy’s Excessive Energy* (Ages 5–9)
  By Jim Forgan (2015)

**BOOKS FOR PARENTS**

- *ADHD: What Every Parent Needs to Know*
  by Michael I. Reiff (2011)

- *Parenting Children with ADHD: 10 Lessons that Medicine Cannot Teach*
  by Vincent J. Monastra (2014)

- *The ADD & ADHD Answer Book: Professional Answers to 275 of the Top Questions Parents Ask*
  by Susan Ashley (2005)

- *100 Questions & Answers About Your Child’s ADHD: From Preschool To College*

**ORGANIZATIONS**

Additional web resources are available at reachoutandread.org/ddresources

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
  cdc.gov/actearly

- Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD)
  chadd.org or help4adhd.org

- Healthy Children from the American Academy of Pediatrics
  healthychildren.org

- Understood: For Learning and Attention Issues
  understood.org

**DID YOU KNOW? Smart Ways to Use Media and Technology**

- Young children learn more from reading or playing games with family than from using phones, computers, tablets, or watching TV.

- For children under two, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) advises using electronic media only for video phone calls with people who are very familiar to them.

- For older children, the AAP suggests no more than one hour a day of high-quality programs (such as Public Television).

- TV and other visual media are more meaningful when you watch together and ask your child to describe what’s happening.

- If it’s too hard to limit electronic devices, it may be a good idea to remove them completely.

- Putting away your own phone or tablet when you talk or read with your child can help the moment be more enjoyable for both of you.

- You can find more information like this at healthychildren.org/english/family-life/media/pages/default.aspx
Reading aloud with loved ones is part of a happy childhood and helps your child develop and learn. A child with a developmental delay may learn more slowly, and may not be able to sit without help, understand all of the words in a story, or tell you the things on the page. But your child will enjoy cuddling with you and sharing a colorful and interesting book. As you read aloud and talk about the story, your child may start pointing at pictures, repeating words, or letting you know in other ways that the activity is fun. Reading aloud gives your child a gift that will last a lifetime—the love of books.

**READING TIPS FOR YOUR**

**Infant or Toddler**

- Read together when reading can be fun and relaxing.
- Use books that have thick, sturdy pages.
- Read books that have rhymes, like Mother Goose or Dr. Seuss.
- Clap your hands and help your child clap along to the rhythm of the words.
- Find books that show bright colors, shapes, and letters. Point these out to your child.
- Talk about the pictures and read the text. Help your child point to certain objects.

**READING TIPS FOR YOUR**

**Preschool or School-Age Child**

- Find books about your child’s daily life—bedtime or going to the park—and things the child enjoys, like animals.
- Talk about the pictures while you read aloud. Ask your child to name objects.
- Try books with buttons that make a sound when pushed, or audio books the child can start or stop.
- Help your child draw pictures of the story. This helps the child learn to read and write at the same time.
RESOURCES

BOOKS FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Hi, I’m Ben and…I’ve Got a Secret (Ages 3–8)
by Julie A. Bouwkamp (2006)

My Friend Isabelle (Ages 4–8)
by Eliza Woloson (2003)

Susan Laughs (Ages 4–8)
by Jeanne Willis (2000)

We’ll Paint the Octopus Red (Ages 3–8)
by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen (1998)

BOOKS FOR PARENTS

edited by Susan Skallerup (2008)

Understanding Fragile X syndrome: A Guide for Families and Professionals
by Isabel Fernández Carvajal and David Aldridge (2011)

by Libby Kumin (2012)

Steps to Independence: Teaching Everyday Skills to Children with Special Needs

Down Syndrome Parenting 101: Must-Have Advice for Making Your Life Easier
by Natalie Hale (2011)

A Parent’s Guide to Developmental Delays: Recognizing and Coping with Missed Milestones in Speech, Movement, Learning, and Other Areas
by Laurie LeComer (2006)

The Elephant in the Playroom: Ordinary Parents Write Intimately and Honestly About Raising Kids with Special Needs
By Denise Brodey (2008)

ORGANIZATIONS Additional web resources are available at reachoutandread.org/ddresources

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
aaid.org

Easter Seals
easterseals.com

National Fragile X Foundation
fragilex.org

The ARC
thearc.org

National Down Syndrome Society
ndss.org

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
cdc.gov/actearly

Healthy Children from the American Academy of Pediatrics
healthychildren.org

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