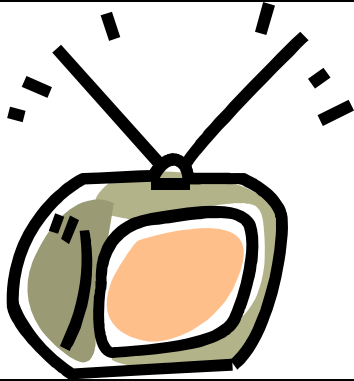


Reading Aloud to Young Children



Pick a regular time for reading every day.



Choose a time with no interruptions from television or telephone.



Find a place that is cozy and quiet.



Make sure your child can see the pictures and words.



Pick books you both like and have fun!

Reading Readiness Checklist for Parents of Kindergartners

These skills usually develop when a child is in kindergarten.

Talk with your child's teacher if you have questions.

- My child listens carefully to books read aloud.
- My child knows the shapes and names for the letters of the alphabet and writes many uppercase and lowercase letters on his own.
- My child knows that spoken words are made of separate sounds.
- My child recognizes and makes rhymes, can tell when words begin with the same sound, and can put together, or blend, spoken sounds.
- My child can sound out some letters.
- My child knows that the order of letters in a written word stands for the order of sounds in a spoken word.
- My child knows some common words such as **a**, **the**, **I**, and **you**, on sight.
- My child knows how to hold a book, and follows print from left to right and from top to bottom of a page when she is read to.
- My child asks and answers questions about stories and uses what she already knows to understand a story.
- My child knows the parts of a book and understands that authors write words and text and illustrators create pictures.
- My child knows that in most books the main message is in the print, not the pictures.
- My child predicts what will happen in a story and retells or acts out stories.
- My child knows the difference between "made-up" fiction and "real" nonfiction books and the difference between stories and poems.
- My child uses what he knows about letters and sounds to write words.
- My child writes some letters and words as they are said to her and begins to spell some words correctly.
- My child writes his own first and last name and the first names of some friends and family.
- My child plays with words and uses new words in her own speech.
- My child knows and uses words that are important to school work, such as the names for colors, shapes, and numbers.
- My child knows and uses words from daily life, such as street names and the names for community workers: teacher, mail carrier, etc.

This checklist is adapted from *A Child Becomes a Reader-Birth Through Preschool*.

Get a free copy at www.nifl.gov.

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