



Foundations of an Interactive Read Aloud

- **Rhythm** – the more reading sounds like natural talking the easier it is to follow the meaning of text
- **Knowledge** – kids who know more are able to understand more of what they read
- **Enjoyment** – kids who enjoy reading are motivated to read more and, in turn, increased time spent reading results in improved reading skills
- **Thinking** – interacting with texts helps kids develop higher-order thinking skills

How to Do An Interactive Read Aloud

1. First, skim through the book on your own so you can plan how you will work in interactions that develop your child's rhythm, knowledge, enjoyment and thinking (the four foundations) when reading the story to your child.
2. Build on what your child already knows about the topic.
3. Model how to figure out unknown words using pictures on the page, similar words, words near the unknown words (context clues), etc.
4. Have your child repeatedly read parts of the book to develop the skill of reading smoothly, evenly, with expression and without mistakes (fluency).
5. Emphasize big ideas in the story, such as the main characters, where and when the story takes place, the sequence of events, etc.
6. Ask questions that will lead your child to understanding the story better.
7. Pause periodically during the reading to model what good readers do by saying out loud what you are thinking about what you are reading. This glimpse inside the reader's mind will give your child a model to go by.
8. At the end of the reading, summarize the entire story in a couple of sentences.

Come read with us!
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