

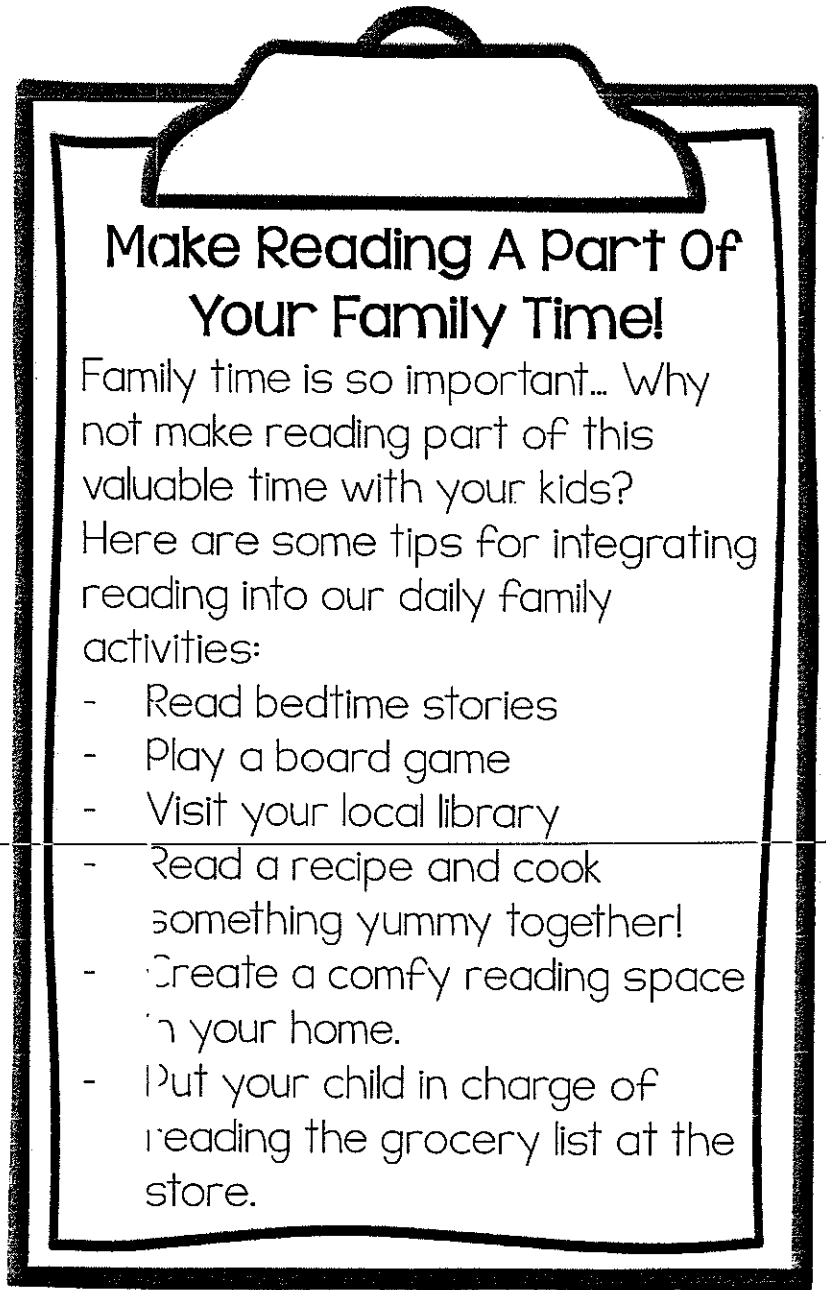
# Reading At Home...

## Can Make A HUGE Difference!



### Choose Books That Are At An Appropriate Reading Level For Your Child

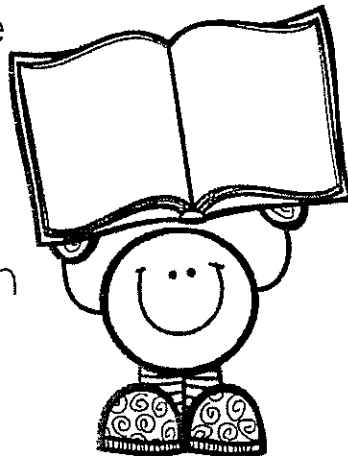
- ☐ Use the five finger rule. Open the book to any page and ask your child to read. Put up a finger every time your child does not know a word. If you have put up more than five fingers before the end of the page, this book is too hard for your child.
- ☐ Choose books that match your child's likes and interests.



### Make Reading A Part Of Your Family Time!

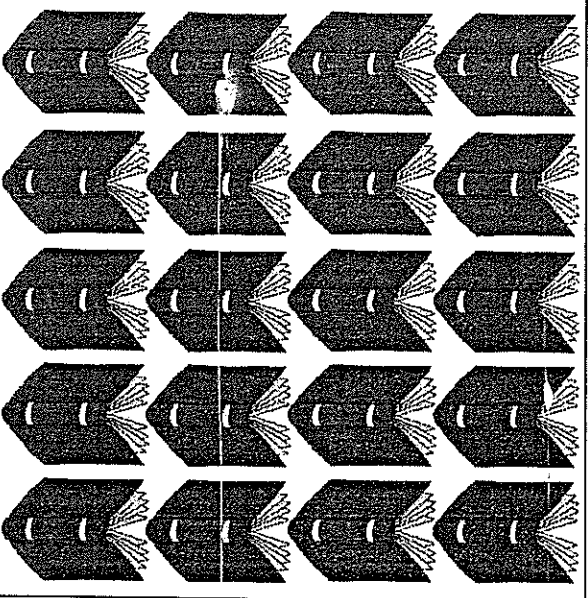
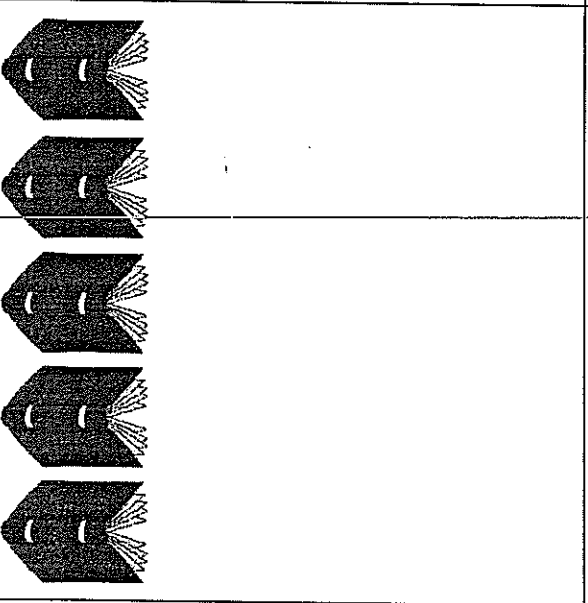
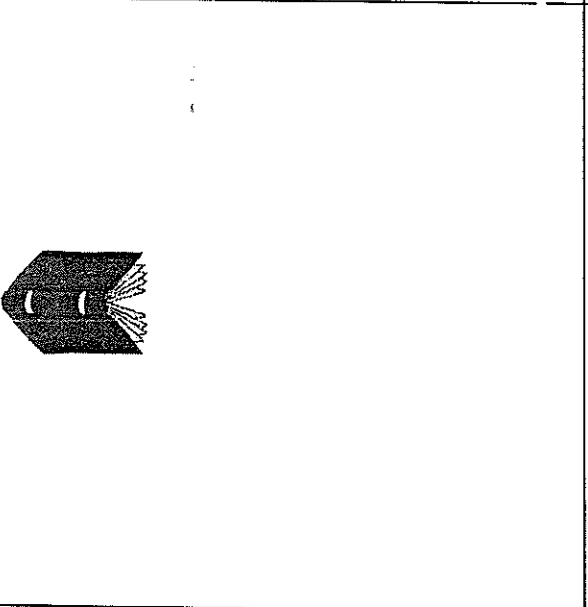
Family time is so important... Why not make reading part of this valuable time with your kids? Here are some tips for integrating reading into our daily family activities:

- Read bedtime stories
- Play a board game
- Visit your local library
- Read a recipe and cook something yummy together!
- Create a comfy reading space in your home.
- Put your child in charge of reading the grocery list at the store.



Keep plenty of reading materials in your home: books, magazines, newspapers, and comic books. Children enjoy having a variety of reading materials!

# WHY READ 20 MINUTES AT HOME?

<i>Student A Reads</i>	<i>Student B Reads</i>	<i>Student C Reads</i>
20 minutes per day	5 minutes per day	1 minute per day
3,600 minutes per school year	900 minutes per school year	180 minutes per school year
1,800,000 words per year	282,000 words per year	8,000 words per year
		
Scores in the 90th percentile on standardized tests.	Scores in the 50th percentile on standardized tests.	Scores in the 10th percentile on standardized tests.

If a student starts reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6th grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days, and Student C will have read for 3.

**WANT TO BE A BETTER READER? SIMPLY READ.**



# How do I get my 20 minutes?

- Read during snack time
- Keep a few books in the car
- Make a set time to read aloud to your child—even if it's for 5 minutes!
- Add reading into transitions—reading while you clean up lunch or finish getting ready to leave
- Read everything! Signs, food boxes, magazines, etc.
- Keep books by the bed
- Have a set time for your child to read quietly to themselves
- Play reading games—hangman, Brain Quest, etc.
- Read while you wait at a restaurant or doctor's office
- Listen to stories online. Try Storyline Online!
- Read activity books, such as cookbooks for kids or Klutz books.

# QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT READING

## AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

- Is the author trying to persuade, inform, or entertain the reader?
- What message does the author want the reader to know?
- Why did the author write this piece?

## ASKING QUESTIONS

- What questions do you have about what you read?
- What is something that you would ask the author?
- What else would you like to know about this topic?
- What do you think was the most important part?

## MONITORING YOURSELF

- What background knowledge do you have that relates to this text?
- Did you ask yourself questions as you read?
- Did you reread sections that were difficult?
- What did you do when you came to a word you didn't know?

## INFERENCE

- What is a generalization you can make about the main character?
- What is something you can figure out about the story that the author didn't tell you?

## SUMMARY & MAIN IDEA

- What is the main idea? What are two supporting details?
- What would be a good title for this selection?
- What happened at the climax of the story?
- Write a summary including beginning, middle, and end.

## CONNECTIONS

- What does this passage remind you of?
- What is another book you have read that has something in common with this one?
- What books have you read that have a similar theme or message?
- What is something you have learned this year that relates to the story?

# Reading Bingo

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Read a book from the public library.	Read your favorite picture book to a friend or family member.	Practice reading a book, then read it aloud to your family.	Read a book to a parent while sitting in a fort you made.	Read 10 poems from a poem book.
Read aloud to a stuffed animal and a parent.	Read for an hour without stopping.	Read an informational book about something you are interested in.	Read a picture book to a parent.	Read a book to your mom or dad in a weird place.
Buddy read with a friend or sibling (they read a page, and then you read one).	Read a book then draw a picture that shows the beginning middle and end.	Free	Read a fairy tale to a parent.	Read a book to someone who is older than you.
Read one of your parents favorite picture books to them.	Read a book to your mom or dad.	Have a parent read a book to you, then you read the same book to them.	Read from a magazine for kids (find one at the public library).	Have a Read-a-thon for two hours. Read with blankets, pillows, stuffed animals and snacks.
Read a bedtime story to a parent before you go to bed.	Read aloud to a parent while they prepare dinner.	Read a book to an adult with a flashlight in the dark.	Read a book about animals (fiction or non-fiction).	Read a book you've never read before to a parent.

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## Why Read Aloud?

Research has proven that reading aloud to children helps them build foundational literacy skills such as fluency, accuracy, and comprehension. While reading aloud to children we share the excitement, emotion, and pure joy that comes from reading a book. We truly become models of what good readers look like, sound like, and think like. The following are some benefits of read alouds discussed by Reading is Fundamental Inc.

Reading aloud helps children build a strong foundation for success and develop a strong love for reading.

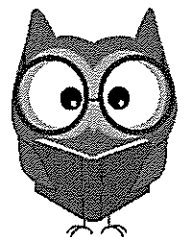
- Reading aloud presents books as a source of pleasure, value, and excitement. Children who value books are motivated to read on their own. The more children read, the more background knowledge they build which helps them make sense of the world around them.
- Adults are ultimately the role models for reading. Reading aloud builds many important foundational skills, introduces vocabulary, provides a model of fluent/expressive reading, and helps children recognize what reading for pleasure is all about.
- According to the article, *Preventing Reading Difficulties in Young Children* (1998), reading aloud is one of the three key practices to support language and literacy development among children.

### Reading aloud is more than just saying the words

- Reading aloud to children requires more than just simply saying the words on the page. Talk with children about the text before, during, and after reading. Talking about a text supports the development of both reading and writing skills.
- Texts can be used to discuss real-life experiences and issues. Children can also use their imagination while reading to explore people, places, times, and events beyond their own experiences.

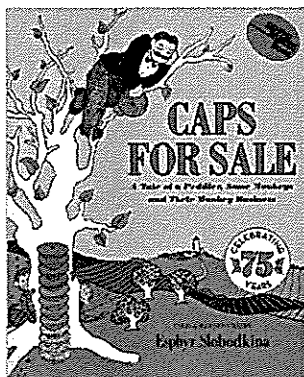
Read aloud earlier, later, and as soon as possible with children.

- Reading aloud is important from infancy all the way up through high school. Families can create a tradition that reinforces the pleasure of reading and sets the stage for conversations even as children get older.
- The wonderful part of reading aloud is it can happen literally ANYWHERE! Outside, inside, on the bus, at the doctor's office, the possibilities are truly endless.



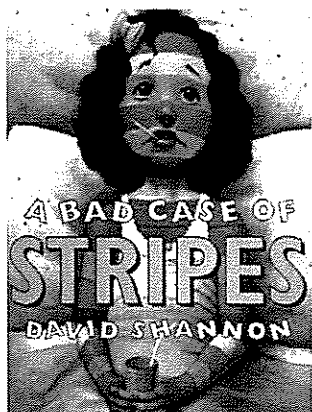
## Read Aloud Favorites

Below, I have compiled a list of some of my favorite read aloud books for primary students. If you would wish to utilize any of these books with your child, please let me know and you may check them out from my classroom library. If there are any additional books you are looking for please don't hesitate to ask!



### **Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina**

**Skill:** While reading aloud, have children make predictions. What happened to the caps? Do you think the peddler will get them back? Why/Why Not?



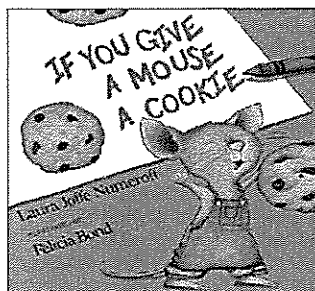
### **A Bad Case of the Stripes by David Shannon**

**Skill:** While reading aloud, have children determine cause/effect. When the other students laughed at Camilla what happens to her?



### **The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt**

**Skill:** While reading aloud, have children determine character traits? How would you describe the orange crayon? What in the story helps you?



### **If You Give A Mouse A Cookie by Laura Joffe Numeroff**

**Skill:** While reading aloud, have children work on sequence of events. What happened before, after, next, then?



## Comprehension Strategies

Reading without building meaning or understanding is NOT truly reading. Many children can simply read or pronounce words fluently but when asked to describe what they read, they are unable to construct a response. It is important that when we read with children we set a purpose for reading and introduce them to strategies that will help them build meaning of what is being read. Research shows that readers who receive practice with using comprehension strategies make significant gains. The following are some comprehension strategies parents can incorporate within the home environment.

### Making Predictions

Making predictions encourages children to become active readers and keeps them engaged. Remember predictions do not always have to be accurate. However, incorrect predictions at times can signal a misunderstanding among the child that needs to be revisited. Below are suggestions for how to incorporate making predictions into recreational reading at home.

- Use text features including pictures, front cover, back cover, title page, headings, or diagrams and ask children to form a prediction prior to reading. A picture walk prior to reading is a great way to help children generate predictions.
- Write down predictions with the child that he/she has made prior to reading. While reading, have the child continue to form predictions or revise predictions made prior to reading. After reading, have the child revisit predictions to determine if they were accurate.



### Ask/Answer Questions

Having children ask/answer questions while reading helps them recognize confusion, encourages active learning, and builds higher order thinking skills. Asking and answering questions while reading will help children learn how to locate information within a text, understand that not all questions will be found in one spot, and even that not all questions will be answered by the author. Below are suggestions for how to incorporate asking/answering questions into recreational reading at home.

- Before reading look at the title, front cover, and quickly skim through the book. Ask children to make note of anything they are curious about or questions they have developed before reading.

- While reading, pause and write down questions created by the child. It could be a wondering they have about the story or a clarifying question. As questions are developed, look for the answers to those questions and participate in discussions with the child.
- After reading, discuss questions and answers. In addition, check to see if all questions have been answered. If not, discuss with the child why some questions were left unanswered.



### Retell/Summarize

Allowing children to retell/summarize all or parts of a text in their own words helps with language development. Retelling and summarizing a text also requires children to build meaning from and retain information that was read and discussed throughout a text. In order to retell/summarize, children must focus on both main idea and important details. Below are suggestions for how to incorporate retelling/summarizing into recreational reading at home.

- During reading, look for characters, setting, key events, and ideas. Participate in discussions while reading. Put a sticky note in the book to mark these important parts of the text that will be used to help retell/summarize what was read.
- After reading review the sticky notes and have children retell/summarize what was read in their own words.



### Model Think Alouds

Thinking aloud is a great way to model what good readers look and think like. This strategy requires the reader to say out loud what they are thinking in their head while reading. Thinking aloud can help strengthen a child’s ability to use all of the above listed strategies a well. Below are suggestions for how to incorporate think alouds into recreational reading at home.

- While reading you can stop periodically and discuss using the following sentence starters.

- So far, I have learned
- This made me think of
- I reread that part because



- I think \_\_\_\_ will happen next
- I just thought of
- I wonder why



## Echo vs. Choral Reading

### What is Echo Reading?

Echo reading is a strategy used to help children develop fluency while reading. This encompasses all five components of fluency including speed, accuracy, phrasing, expression, and smoothness. During echo reading, a short segment of text is read out loud by an adult (a sentence or short paragraph) and the children echo it back.

### Echo Reading Steps

1. Choose an appropriate piece of text and make sure that all participants have access to a copy.
2. An adult or lead reader will choose a segment of text to read aloud while other follow along.
3. After the adult or lead reader finishes the segment, the other participants will then read. The goal is for them to mimic reading how the adult or lead reader read the text.

**This is an excellent way to practice reading fluency within the home environment!**

### What is Choral Reading?

. Choral reading is another great strategy to use in order to help children develop fluency. Unlike echo reading, choral reading requires all participants to read in unison which means there is no need for a lead reader. Picture books, poems, songs, and nursery rhymes are all great pieces of texts to use with this strategy.

### Choral Reading Steps

1. Look for pieces that will put the children's imagination to work. Begin with simpler pieces until children become familiar with the process.
2. Introduce the selection to the children by reading it aloud while they follow along silently.
3. Have everyone read through the selection aloud in unison at least one time.

## Reader's Theater- Fun for the Whole Family!

Reader's theater is a great way to get all members of the family involved in helping your child or children develop fluency when reading. You can find many different reader's theater scripts online or use your favorite book to create one. If you want to get really into reading, utilize costumes and other props. The possibilities are endless! This strategy will keep all children engaged, make reading fun, and help them build fluency while reading. Below are the steps to successfully utilizing reader's theater at home.

1. Choose a script that is appropriate and enjoyable for your children.
2. Assign roles or parts within the script to children/family members.
3. Have children highlight parts and rehearse multiple times (repeated practice).
4. After many repeated practices, perform your perfected play.

**Remember this is an enjoyable experience. It doesn't need to be flawless, just have fun with it!**

### Readers Theater: Apple Picking

**Student 1:** We're going to pick apples. Would you like to go with us?

**Student 2:** Sure. That's sounds like fun.

**Student 1:** Look at all those apple trees. Let's get a basket.

**Student 2:** O.K. Now let's find a tree.

**Student 1:** I like this one. It has lots of red apples.

**Student 2:** O.K. I'll climb up this ladder. There is another one right here.

**Student 1:** There are a lot of apples in my basket.

**Student 2:** Mine too. I think it will be heavy.

**Student 1:** We can put them in the wagon. We can take turns pulling it.

**Student 2:** Good idea. I can't wait to eat one. This was so much fun!