



## Read Aloud Tips Hints and Suggestions:

### ... a note for parents and caregivers:

- It's never too early to start reading to your child - the sooner the better. You can even start before they are born.
- Read aloud every day for at least ten minutes. Make it part of the daily routine and try to make it at the same time: '**story time**'. Before bed is okay, but don't encourage children to go to sleep when you read.
- Read aloud three or four short stories **every day**. If your child loves a book then read it again and again and again.
- Read all types of stories including picture books, beginning readers and especially those with repetition and rhyme.
- Read with **expression, feeling and animation**. Make it soft and make it loud, but not too scary. Try using different voices for different characters. Read the story with your face as well as your voice.
- **Share** the reading with your child, maybe page by page, or even book by book. Let children play with, touch and handle the book. Let them help you turn the pages and learn how books work.
- Let them **laugh** and **giggle** and **sing** the words you read. They will learn to read it just like you.
- Talk about the pictures and the words as you read but make it a game ... not work or 'learning'. **Reading is FUN!**
- Let your child have opportunities to **choose** a book to read.
- During reading time turn off any possible sources of distraction, like the television and radio so that you and your child can be absorbed by the story!
- Let your child see that you value and enjoy reading, and that it is a worthwhile and pleasurable activity. Children are great copiers.
- Make reading a **family** activity – brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, and grandparents can do the reading too. Remember, both mums and dads can read!

- Many children's books have been recorded for tape or CD. If you are not confident reading to your child, then why not choose an **audio** version and the printed book.
- Have lots of stimulating reading material at home; comics, magazines newspapers, library books, joke books, non-fiction, poetry and short chapter books. Place books by the bed, in the bathroom, next to the toilet, in the lounge room, in the kitchen. Sit books all over the house.
- Let your child see you read your books and magazines for enjoyment too, and when you ask what they read at school that day don't forget to tell them what you read too!
- Join your **local library** and borrow books for your child and for you. Many libraries have children's librarians and they are experts, so ask them to help you.
- Find out where your nearest children's specialist **bookseller** is located – they are out there but you need to search. They often have story times and activity sessions that you can join ... and they are experts too.
- **Look** for words everywhere, such as street signs, shops, and letters. Read them with your child.
- When you are **shopping** for groceries let your child read the shopping list and read the contents for you of the grocery items.
- When relatives ask you what present to give your child there is only one answer: a good book or **three!**
- Remember that just as sport is great for exercising the body, and good food exercises the insides, **reading exercises the mind.**