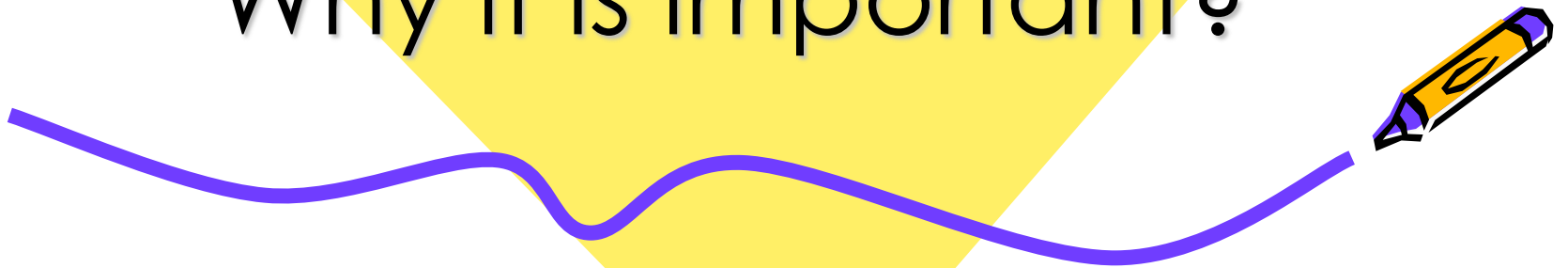




# Reading to Children

Why it is important?

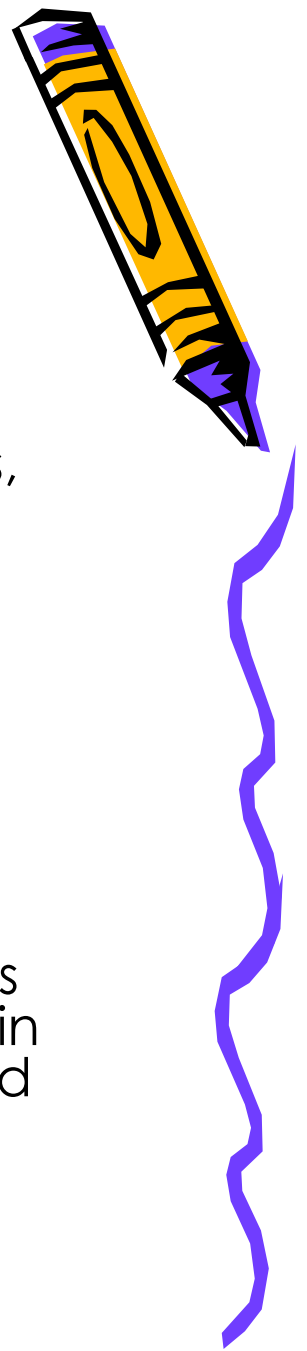


- When we think of reading aloud to children, we picture holding a baby on our lap, simple little board book in hand. The newest thinking, however, is that children of all ages benefit from being read to - and that includes the adults doing the reading.
- According to the Department of Education Commission on Reading, **"Reading aloud to children of all ages is the single most important activity for building knowledge and success a parent can do for their child"**.
- Despite knowing that even primary and secondary school children are not too old to be read to, more than one-third of children older than 6 say their parents never read to them. However, these same parents will watch a film with their child.



# Reading to your child builds positive relationships

- In this day and age of hectic lives and busy schedules, reading together is a simple and enjoyable way for parents to take time out and focus on the family.
- Reading children's stories is a wonderful bonding experience that fosters meaningful one-on-one communication. Reading aloud is comforting and reassuring to a child.
- Making literacy a priority in your life will demonstrate its importance to your child so they will make it a priority in theirs. If your child never sees you read then why would they think it is important?



# Its fun for you and your child



- Reading aloud is like an advertisement for reading. It helps give children a taste of what's possible.
- As children get older, even good readers might lose interest. Therefore, reading aloud to an older child will renew and refresh their interest in the printed word.
- Reading aloud is a great way to turn children into readers who will enjoy books all their lives



# A child who is read to will learn to read better on his or her own and at a younger age

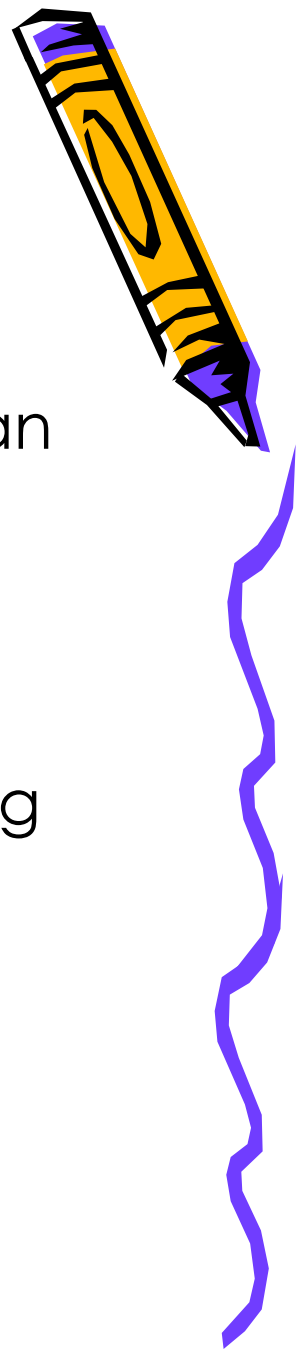


- It is a vital and integral part of teaching children how to read as children learn how to read by being read to.
- Children who have been read to at home enter school with larger vocabularies and a better understanding of concepts.
- Reading out loud demonstrates what good reading sounds like and provides a goal for the child's literacy efforts. As your child learns to read, he or she will need role models to follow.
- Reading with your child helps the child connect print words and meaning. Children learn to read many words simply through repeated exposure. It is not enough to simply provide words and instead the words must also be placed in context.



# It builds listening skills and increases concentration

- A child who does not have the attention span to read by themselves for a long time can increase their attention span when they are read to.
- It increases listening comprehension. Listening comprehension must come before reading comprehension; a child must first learn to understand a concept by hearing it (and therefore "seeing it" in their brain).



# Reading stories aloud to children helps them develop their creativity and imagination

- It develops creativity and a child's ability to use their own imagination!
- Being read to promotes imagination by visualization of what a child hears; for instance, a description of a character.
- A well-written story stimulates your child's imagination and creativity which can foster their own creative efforts and play.



# It helps children master language development



- It develops children's ability to express themselves more confidently, easily, and clearly in spoken AND written terms.
- Reading aloud to children expands their vocabulary.
- Children can learn what good grammar and good writing is, as well as how language can sound, when a well-written book is read to them.
- Sharing a variety of books improves your child's knowledge of language including vocabulary, sentence structure, and pronunciation. The more your child knows about words and language then the more knowledge and experience they will have to draw upon while learning to read and write.





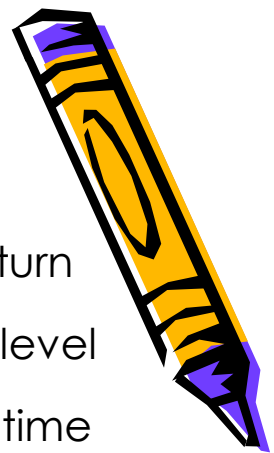


# It informs your child and explains the world around them

- A carefully selected story challenges and engages your child's mind. Through books your child can not only re-live experiences in their own life but also learn and experience cultures and events far removed from their current scope.
- Reading a variety of stories helps children learn how story structure and narrative works which will help in literacy as well as social interaction. Human beings use story telling and narrative in our professional and personal interactions and the people who have the best grasp of narrative technique are often the most successful in these areas.
- It expands children's horizons, quells fears, exposes them to new situations, and teaches them appropriate behaviour.



# Tips for reading aloud



- Encourage involvement: invite your child to choose the book and turn the pages as you read.
  - Challenge their minds: try to read above your child's intellectual level every so often.
  - Set the mood: choose an appropriate time in the day and allow time for your child to settle, get comfortable and focus their mind.
  - Practice makes perfect: it may sound easy but reading aloud does not come naturally to everyone and practise helps.
  - Make time: even ten minutes a day will benefit your child, so look for opportunities to read to them, such as at bedtime, in the bath or on car journeys.
  - Slow down: it may be tempting to rush through a story, especially when your child is tired or distracted, but it's important to read slowly so your child can take in the words and pictures.
  - Questions are good: always encourage your child to ask questions about the story as it boosts their confidence and encourages an inquisitive mind.
  - Share the load: encourage all the family – mum, dad, siblings, grandparents, aunts and uncles – to read with your child.
  - Lead by example: a child will be inspired by seeing their parents or teachers read – anything from books and newspapers to magazines, letters and emails.
  - Join our library and become a parent advocate!

