

Reading Aloud with Children who have Developmental Delay

Reading aloud with loved ones is part of a happy childhood and helps your child develop and learn. A child with a developmental delay may learn more slowly, and may not be able to sit without help, understand all of the words in a story, or tell you the things on the page. But your child will enjoy cuddling with you and sharing a colorful and interesting book. As you read aloud and talk about the story, your child may start pointing at pictures, repeating words, or letting you know in other ways that the activity is fun. Reading aloud gives your child a gift that will last a lifetime—the love of books.

READING TIPS FOR YOUR

Infant or Toddler

- **Read together when reading can be fun and relaxing.**
- **Use books that have thick, sturdy pages.**
- **Read books that have rhymes**, like Mother Goose or Dr. Seuss.
- **Clap your hands and help your child clap** along to the rhythm of the words.
- **Find books that show bright colors, shapes, and letters.** Point these out to your child.
- **Talk about the pictures and read the text.** Help your child point to certain objects.

READING TIPS FOR YOUR

Preschool or School-Age Child

- **Find books about your child's daily life**—bedtime or going to the park—and things the child enjoys, like animals.
- **Talk about the pictures while you read aloud.** Ask your child to name objects.
- **Try books with buttons** that make a sound when pushed, or audio books the child can start or stop.
- **Help your child draw pictures of the story.** This helps the child learn to read and write at the same time.



INFANT OR TODDLER SUGGESTED BOOKS

I Can, Can You?
by Marjorie W. Pitzer

ABC
by Dr. Seuss

Books by Eric Carle, such as *My Very First Book of Colors*, *My Very First Book of Numbers*, *My Very First Book of Shapes*, or *Eric Carle's ABC*

Books by Laura Ronay, such as *Kids Like Me...Learn ABC* or *Kids Like Me...Learn Colors*

Books by Rena D. Grossman, such as *Families* or *Eating the Rainbow*

PRESCHOOL OR SCHOOL-AGE SUGGESTED BOOKS

At the Seashore
by Ruth Koeppel

Poke-A-Dot Old MacDonald's Farm
by Travis King

Sounds on the Go!
by Gail Donovan

The Little Engine That Could
by Watty Piper

Sign Language, My First 100 Words
by Michiyo Nelson



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RESOURCES

BOOKS FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Hi, I'm Ben and...I've Got a Secret
(Ages 3–8)
by Julie A. Bouwkamp (2006)

My Friend Isabelle (Ages 4–8)
by Eliza Woloson (2003)

We'll Paint the Octopus Red (Ages 3–8)
by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen (1998)

Susan Laughs (Ages 4–8)
by Jeanne Willis (2000)

BOOKS FOR PARENTS

Babies with Down Syndrome: A New Parent's Guide and Bébes con síndrome de Down (Spanish Edition)
edited by Susan Skallerup (2008)

Understanding Fragile X syndrome: A Guide for Families and Professionals
by Isabel Fernández Carvajal and David Aldrige (2011)

The Elephant in the Playroom: Ordinary Parents Write Intimately and Honestly About Raising Kids with Special Needs
By Denise Brodey (2008)

Early Communication Skills for Children with Down Syndrome: A Guide for Parents and Professionals
by Libby Kumin (2012)

Steps to Independence: Teaching Everyday Skills to Children with Special Needs
by Bruce L. Baker and Alan J. Brightman (2004)

Down Syndrome Parenting 101: Must-Have Advice for Making Your Life Easier
by Natalie Hale (2011)

A Parent's Guide to Developmental Delays: Recognizing and Coping with Missed Milestones in Speech, Movement, Learning, and Other Areas
by Laurie LeComer (2006)

ORGANIZATIONS Additional web resources are available at reachoutandread.org/ddresources

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
aidd.org

Easter Seals
easterseals.com

National Fragile X Foundation
fragilex.org

The ARC
thearc.org

National Down Syndrome Society
ndss.org

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
cdc.gov/actearly

Healthy Children from the American Academy of Pediatrics
healthychildren.org

DID YOU KNOW? Smart Ways to Use Media and Technology

- Young children learn more from reading or playing games with family than from using phones, computers, tablets, or watching TV.
- For children under two, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) advises using electronic media only for video phone calls with people who are very familiar to them.
- For older children, the AAP suggests no more than one hour a day of high-quality programs (such as Public Television).
- TV and other visual media are more meaningful when you watch together and ask your child to describe what's happening.
- If it's too hard to limit electronic devices, it may be a good idea to remove them completely.
- Putting away your own phone or tablet when you talk or read with your child can help the moment be more enjoyable for both of you.
- You can find more information like this at healthychildren.org/english/family-life/media/pages/default.aspx

Reading tips on
the opposite side

