

Reading Aloud with Children who have Motor Delay

Reading aloud with loved ones is part of a happy childhood and helps your child develop and learn. A child with a motor delay may also have delayed, or hard to understand, speech, and may not be able to sit without help. But your child will enjoy cuddling with you and sharing a colorful and interesting book. Over time, reading aloud can help motor skills, speech and language development, and play. Reading aloud makes it fun and gives your child a gift that will last a lifetime – the love of books.



READING TIPS FOR YOUR Infant or Toddler

- **Read together at a time of day when reading is 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.
- **Talk about the pictures while you read.** Help your toddler point to certain things in the book.

READING TIPS FOR YOUR Preschool or School-Age Child

- **Read together when your child is relaxed and paying attention,** such as before bedtime or after a trip to the park.
- **Talk about the pictures while you read.** Ask your child to name things or read aloud.
- **Find books about** things your child enjoys, like animals or sports.
- **Sit with your child. If your child is in a wheelchair or special chair, sit where the child can see the book and hear you.** Ask the therapist about special tools to help your child prop up or turn the pages.
- **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

Stroller Strap Books are easy to handle and the sturdy pages stay open and are easy to turn.

E-Z Page Turners are designed to help young children turn the pages. Available online or ask your child's occupational therapist. Titles include: *Trucks*, *Opposites*, and *Mommies and Babies*

PRESCHOOL OR SCHOOL-AGE SUGGESTED BOOKS

Harold and the Purple Crayon
by Crockett Johnson

We're Going on a Bear Hunt
by Helen Oxenbury

Hello, Goodbye Dog
by Maria Gianferrari

Susan Laughs
by Jeannie Willis



RESOURCES

BOOKS FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Brothers and Sisters (Ages 5-8)
by Laura Dwight (2005)

Views from Our Shoes (Ages 8–12)
by Donald Meyer (1997)

A Rainbow of Friends (Ages 3-6)
by P.K. Hallinan (1998)

Living with a Brother or Sister with Special Needs (Ages 4–10)
by Donald Meyer and Patricia Vadasy (1996)

Don't Call Me Special: A First Look at Disability (Ages 8-12)
by Pat Thomas (2005)

BOOKS FOR PARENTS

Cerebral Palsy: A Complete Guide for Caregiving
by Freeman Miller and Steven J. Bachrach (2017)

Teaching Motor Skills to Children with Cerebral Palsy and Similar Movement Disorders: A Guide for Parents and Professionals
by Sieglinde Martin (2006)

The Cerebral Palsy Tool Kit: From Diagnosis to Understanding
by Michele P Shusterman (2015)

Children with Cerebral Palsy: A Parent's Guide, Second Edition
by Elaine Geralis (1998)

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

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
cdc.gov/actearly

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, National Institutes of Health
ninds.nih.gov

NIH: Cerebral Palsy
nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/cerebral-palsy

Easter Seals
easterseals.com

United Cerebral Palsy Association
ucp.org

Healthy Children from the American Academy of Pediatrics
healthychildren.org

Muscular Dystrophy Association
mda.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

