

# Reading Aloud with Children who have Speech and Language Delay

Reading aloud with loved ones is part of a happy childhood and helps your child develop and learn. A child with Speech and Language Delay may not understand every word, but will enjoy cuddling with you to share a book. Over time, reading aloud can also strengthen speech and language skills, by making reading fun. It's a way to give your child a gift that will last a lifetime—a love of books.

## READING TIPS FOR YOUR

### Infant or Toddler

- **Read together when it's fun and relaxing.** Younger children may be easily distracted, so start by reading for just a few minutes at a time.
- **Read the same story many times.** Children enjoy the repetition and it helps them learn language.
- **Use books with rhymes or songs.** Clap along to the rhythm and help your child clap with you. As the child grows, suggest filling in words. *"Twinkle twinkle little star, How I wonder what you ..."*
- **Point to pictures and talk about them.** *"Look at the silly monkey!"* And ask your child to point at certain things. *"Where's the cat?"*
- **Talk about things in the story that your child knows.** *"That bear has blue pajamas just like you!"*
- **Ask questions about the story.** *"Is that bunny hiding?"* As your child grows, ask harder questions. *"What do you think will happen next?"*

## READING TIPS FOR YOUR

### Preschool or School-Age Child

- **Talk with your child about why things happen in the story.** *"Why do you think the monkey stole the key?"*
- **Ask about letter sounds.** While pointing at a picture of a snake, ask *"What sound does a snake make?"* As your child grows, ask harder questions. *"What sound does 'ball' start with?"*
- **Play sound games.** List words that rhyme (*"ball", "tall"*) or words that start with the same sound (*"mommy", "mix"*).
- **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

Mother Goose Rhymes or Dr. Seuss books with rhyming stories

*Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?*

by Bill Martin, Jr.

*Each Peach Pear Plum*

by Allan and Janet Ahlberg

*Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*

by Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault

Sign and Sing Along Series  
(*Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star, Baa Baa Black Sheep, Itsy Bitsy Spider*)

by Annie Kubler

#### PRESCHOOL OR SCHOOL-AGE SUGGESTED BOOKS

Funny or silly books are a good choice for this age group. Some titles include:

*Does a Chimp Wear Clothes?*

by Fred Ehrlich

*Hippos Go Berserk!*

by Sandra Boynton

*Mr. Brown Can Moo! Can You?*

by Dr. Seuss



# RESOURCES

## BOOKS FOR OLDER CHILDREN

*Let's Talk About Stuttering* (Ages 4–8)  
by Susan Kent (1999)

*Sammy Goes to Speech* (Ages 3-7)  
by Marissa Siegel (2018)

*Aidan Goes to Speech* (Ages 4-7)  
by Lisa Mortensen (2018)

*Coping with Stuttering* (Ages 9–12)  
by Melanie Ann Apel (2000)

## BOOKS FOR PARENTS

*Childhood Speech, Language, and Listening Problems*  
by Patricia Hamaguchi (1995)

*The Parent's Guide to Speech and Language Problems*  
by Debbie Feit and Heidi Feldman (2007)

*Childhood Speech and Language Disorders: Supporting Children and Families on the Path to Communication (Whole Family Approaches to Childhood Illnesses and Disorders)*  
by Suzanne M. Ducharme (2016)

*The New Language of Toys: Teaching Communication Skills to Children with Special Needs*  
by Sue Schwartz (2004)

*Speaking of Apraxia: A Parents' Guide to Childhood Apraxia of Speech*  
by Leslie Lindsay (2012)

## ORGANIZATIONS Additional web resources are available at [reachoutandread.org/ddresources](https://reachoutandread.org/ddresources)

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
[asha.org](https://asha.org)

Speechville Express  
[speechville.com](https://speechville.com)

Healthy Children from the American Academy of Pediatrics  
[healthychildren.org](https://healthychildren.org)

Apraxia-KIDS (The Childhood Apraxia of Speech Association)  
[apraxia-kids.org](https://apraxia-kids.org)

General Information about Speech and Language Disorders  
[ldonline.org/article/6336](https://ldonline.org/article/6336)

AAP National Center for Medical Home Implementation  
[medicalhomeinfo.aap.org](https://medicalhomeinfo.aap.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.
- For more information on media and technology use, visit [healthychildren.org/english/family-life/media/pages/default.aspx](https://healthychildren.org/english/family-life/media/pages/default.aspx)

Reading tips on the opposite side

