

School Stuff



Don't Sit Still The Fun of Reading Aloud

People tend to participate in activities they find fun and enjoyable. Reading aloud is such an activity. Make it pleasurable by bringing the characters to life with voice and movement. Keep your child's attention focused and provide opportunities to move around to increase the enjoyment of the story. Here are some suggestions:

- Change your voice to represent a character. For example, in "Goldilocks and the Three Bears," Papa Bear can have a deep, loud voice, and Baby Bear can have a high, squeaky one. Encourage your child to imitate these characters with his voice as well.

- Look for actions and objects for which you can produce sounds as you read. A bridge can "creak"; the wind can "whoosh"; and a fish can "splash."
- Let your child act out what is being read. If a character is flying, you and your child can flap your arms. Encourage simple movements that do not disrupt the flow of the story.
- Make facial expressions to match the mood or attitude of a character. If a character is worried, make a "worried" expression, or if a character is happy, smile.
- Use your voice to match the mood in the story. Read quickly during a chase scene, or lower your voice and read more slowly during a scary part.

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