



**Strong Start to reading™**  
"Making a difference in the life of a child"

## The Power of Reading Aloud

One of the most enjoyable and beneficial activities that you can do with your child is to read to them and with them. Children learn the power of story and love the chance to cuddle up with you. They experience the pleasure that the world of books and the ability to read brings. Read aloud to your child often.

### Let's see why...

When you read aloud to your child you are actually:

- stimulating imagination
- expanding understanding of the world
- developing attention span
- developing language and listening skills
- preparing them to understand the written word



And, most importantly, reading allows you to spend time together.

Even after children learn to read by themselves, it's still important for you to read aloud together.



### Let's get started...

- Take a picture walk before you start reading a story. Look at and talk about the pictures on each page and ask what the story might be about. This helps your child understand new vocabulary and know that using the pictures helps to understand the story. Children love to "read" the pictures!
- Involve your child in the story. Ask them what might happen next. Have them chime in with words they know or rhyming words that they can predict when reading a poem.
- Build your child's love of literacy by making the time together enjoyable. Don't feel you have to read every single word in a book, especially if your child is young and it may be hard to keep their attention. Use different voices for different characters and feel free to be silly!
- Talk about the words that you come across in a book. Some will be words that you know, but others may be new and interesting!
- Let your child see you reading. No matter what it is – a book, the newspaper, a blog - you set a good example when your child sees you as a reader.

***Know that you are giving your child a powerful gift - the love of reading!***