

## Reading Aloud to Children and preparing them for the Florida Standards



**It is never too early to start reading to babies.  
The sound of your voice reading language helps build later literacy skills.**

1) Always show the cover of the book. Read the title. Read the author's name and the illustrator if there is one. Flip through the book, look at the pictures together, and talk about what's on the jacket flaps. Ask the child to predict what the story or book might be about.

2) If the book is short, read the whole story through one time to enjoy it. Read with enthusiasm and enjoyment—don't be afraid to use funny voices or to read louder or more quietly as is appropriate. Show your silly side. It's OK (in fact, it's great) if the child asks questions while you read. Stop and answer them.

3) Ask the child to help you re-tell the story in his or her words. Help him or her use transition words like *beginning*, *middle*, and *end*. Use the pictures to prompt memory.

4) Then read it a second time and stop and ask questions such as:

How can we describe the main character? What words and phrases does the author use?

Why do you think the character did that? What words or pictures give us a clue as to why?

What do you think is happening in the picture? What words on the page match the picture?

What do you think this word means? How does the author help us understand it?

If the book is longer, then instead of reading a second time, you might read a section the first time, stop, retell, and then go back and ask these types of questions to build comprehension. Always go back to the pages to find the answers.

5) Can the child read a little bit already? If so, take turns reading. You might also try letting the child finish sentences that you start. This works especially well if the book has a repeating or rhyming pattern.

6) After you've finished, talk about the book:

Does it remind the child of other books you've read together?

Does the child agree with the ending?

Should the character have made a different choice?

Did the child have a favorite page? If so, feel free to read it again. Better yet, ask the child to read it to you!

No matter the question, ask the child to point out specific words, phrases or pictures that helped him or her to gain that understanding.

**The more often children read, the more success they will find with school.**