

Benefits of Reading Aloud



Encouraging children to read aloud has been shown to have positive benefits for their literacy development. Reading aloud gives students the opportunity to develop confidence, increase fluency and build up their attention span. It also provides an opportunity for their parent/carer, or their teacher, to assess how well they are able to read on their own.

Decoding Skills

For children who are learning to read or who perhaps struggle with reading, the opportunity to develop decoding skills is perhaps one of the most important benefits of reading aloud.

Confidence

Reading aloud in front of the class can be (and is) daunting for many children. But regularly practising this can build up their confidence dramatically. Practising reading aloud at home to improve fluency will help with this too.

Confidence in reading aloud will also help children in the future, such as when they do presentations in their schooling or in their adult life.

Attention Span

Focusing intently on reading a text aloud can build and increase a child's attention span. They'll have to pay close attention to the words they're reading in order to say them correctly out loud.

Reading also requires children to sit still and concentrate for a period of time. Practising this regularly will help them to build up their attention span.

Reading Fluency

As they practise reading aloud, children will begin to know that different characters need different voices. They will learn to vary intonation as they make their way through the text. Reading aloud also helps children experiment with things such as expression, speed and volume, which are all important factors that influence fluency. Reading aloud ultimately encourages fluency to develop, as it's a more tangible way of practising reading than simply reading in silence.

Tips on Getting Started

Encourage children to read aloud to a pet or cuddly toy. This can help iron out reading nerves and motivate even the most reluctant of readers to have a go.

Make it fun! Ask your child to read the text like a pirate, or squeak the words like a mouse.

Talk about what you have read. Once you have finished a chapter, section or you have reached the end of a poem, take some time to talk about what you've just read together. Not only will this give you an idea of how well your child has understood the text, but it also offers you another way to bond.

Choose books with relatable characters and interests. This will help encourage reluctant, struggling or disinterested readers to read aloud.

Keep it short and sweet! While your child is getting used to reading aloud, keep sessions brief so as not to tire or overwhelm them. As confidence and capacity build, you can slowly lengthen the amount of time you spend reading aloud together.