



Why You Should Read Aloud to Your Child

Reading aloud to your child is such an easy thing to do. It only takes time, and, if you want to read many books, a good local public library is there for you and free. You've got one of the best collections of children's books in the nation right here within our South Carolina Public Library System.

Isn't TV giving my child the same language opportunities? Quite simply, the best way to ensure that your child will learn to read all on his own, will develop a love for reading and books, and, as bold as it may sound, will be a happy successful adult with an open mind and a greater understanding of the world around him is by replacing TV time with book time. Reading accomplishes that and much more.

Reading aloud instills the desire children need for them to be interested in books and learning. Children are not born with desire. We must instill it in them. The more parents read to their children, the better readers children become. And like anything, the better you get at it, the more you like it. The more you like it, the more you do it. But none of this occurs without an adult planting the seed of desire, and that cannot be accomplished without reading aloud.

When you read aloud to your child, you are telling him that you value books. You are also telling him/her that you value spending time sharing a story, a Mother Goose rhyme, or even a poem. Children are starving for quality time with their parents, and sharing a picture book is the perfect opportunity for doing just that.

Source: Leslie Barban, Richland County Public Library and SC First Steps to School Readiness