

Tip Sheet: Make Read Alouds Interactive

FOR PRESCHOOL PARENTS

For additional support on this topic, visit <https://bit.ly/QTInteractive> to view a short video.

WHY?

When you share a read aloud with your child, take advantage of the opportunity to make the experience more interactive. **Interactive read alouds** keep your child interested in the story, support their understanding, and promote oral language and early literacy skill development.

WHAT?

During an interactive read aloud, children do not simply listen quietly to a story. It is an engaging style of reading that encourages children to relate to a book by listening *and* participating in discussions about the reading through a variety of strategies.

HOW?

There are many ways to invite your child to interact with the book you are reading:

Before Reading

- Ask your child what they think the book might be about based on its title and the image on the cover.
- Ask questions to support letter recognition. For example, "Can you find the letter *L* in the title?"

During Reading

- Ask questions to make sure your child is understanding the book. For example, "What is the girl doing now?"
- Ask open-ended questions to support higher-level thinking. For example, "Why do you think the girl doesn't want to eat the birthday cake?"
- Talk about the pictures in the book. For example, ask them to count the number of objects or name the different colors they see in the illustrations.
- Ask your child to make predictions, or guesses, about what might happen next in the story. For example, "What do you think the girl will do now that she has missed the bus?"
- Use child-friendly definitions to describe what a word means and have your child act it out. For example, "This says the girl was trembling with fear. When someone trembles, they're shaking. Let's pretend to tremble."

After Reading

- Ask your child to retell in their own words what happened in the story or what the book was about.
- Engage your child in a conversation about the book. For example, ask them to talk about their favorite part, favorite character, or what they learned from the book.