

Tip Sheet: Make Read Alouds Interactive

FOR PRESCHOOL TEACHERS

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

WHY?

When children are asked to sit quietly and listen to book read aloud, they can lose interest, become bored, and possibly disruptive. When this happens, they don't get much out of the reading experience. You engage children and hold their interest by conducting **interactive read alouds**. Interactive read-aloud experiences give children opportunities to respond to the story. Besides keeping them engaged, interactive read alouds support children's oral language and higher-level thinking skill development.

WHAT?

There are many ways to give children opportunities to engage with the reading. Ask children to:

1. Act out a vocabulary word. For example, "This says the girl was trembling with fear. Let's all tremble."
2. Respond to the illustrations. For example, ask children to count the number of objects or name the different colors they see.
3. Make predictions. For example, "What do you think the girl will do now that she missed the bus?"
4. Respond to questions. For example, "Why do you think the girl doesn't want to eat the birthday cake?"
5. Talk with a partner. For example, "Turn knee-to-knee with the person next to you and take turns talking about what happened in the story."

HOW?

Preparation is key for a successful interactive read aloud. Read through the book before and pay attention to your own thinking. As you read, ask yourself:

1. Where do you make a prediction? Where do you make an inference, or guess, about what a character might be feeling or why they do a certain thing? Place a sticky note at those places to remind you to talk about your thinking and invite children to make a prediction or an inference.
2. What vocabulary may be difficult for children? Which words are essential for understanding the book? Place a sticky note to remind you to talk about those words.
3. What is interesting or different about the illustrations?



TEACHER TIP

Too much of a good thing can be a bad thing! Too many stops may make it difficult for children to follow the flow of the story. Be aware of how often you are pausing to talk about the book and avoid too many story interruptions.