

Tip Sheet: Reread Books to Children

FOR PRESCHOOL PARENTS

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

WHY?

Sometimes we think children will get bored if we read them a story more than once. However, there are many benefits to rereading books.

Rereading books can help children:

- Better understand the book. During a second or third reading, they may be able to make sense of something that was confusing to them before. Asking questions during a repeated reading helps children think even more about the book.
- Develop language skills by learning new vocabulary and having a chance to talk more about the book.

WHAT?

Rereading books to children sounds simple— just read the book more than once! But rereading the book the same way each time can be boring for the child and for you! Make it a different experience each time by asking different questions and focusing on different aspects of the book.

Here are some examples of different things you can focus on with each reading of the text:

HOW?

■ First Reading – Basic understanding and predictions

During the first reading, ask more literal questions to make sure your child has a basic understanding of the text. You can also explain some of the vocabulary words that are important for understanding. For example, if you are reading a book about seeds, it may be important to explain what the word *germinate* means, if it appears in the text. This is also a good time to ask your child to make predictions. For example, “Now that the children have planted the seed and watered it, what do you think will happen next?” You can also talk about how the character solves a problem.

■ Additional Readings – Go deeper

During the second and additional readings you can ask more difficult questions that will encourage your child’s higher-level thinking skills. Why questions require children to use higher-level thinking, such as “*Why* do you think the character did that?” You can also use the second read aloud to review the vocabulary you previously highlighted, and to explain new words that you haven’t talked about yet. During additional readings, you can talk more about the illustrations. If your child is very familiar with the book, invite them to chime in with the parts they remember.

After your child is familiar with the book, ask them to retell parts of the story or say what will happen next. In addition to helping them understand the book better, rereading encourages the development of children’s oral language skills.