

BES Tiger Tracks

Oral Reading

Some people say that oral reading is unnecessary. They argue that people are rarely asked to read aloud in real life. Silent reading *is* used most in everyday life, but there are times when oral reading is needed too. People are asked to look in the newspaper or in a book and give information back, or they have to read a menu to order food or read something aloud in their work. Thus, it is important for parents to let their children practice reading aloud at home in order to develop smooth reading and reading with expression. Here are some ways of developing this skill in your child:

1. Read Aloud-You read a book or story aloud using good expression as a model for your child. If you are not comfortable with this, you can get books that have CD's or tapes for the child to follow along. This lets the student hear good expression, voice, and flow of words. This modeling is very beneficial.
2. Paired Reading-Let the child choose a book. Give a "1, 2, 3" signal to begin reading aloud together. Establish a signal such as tapping on the table when the student wishes to read alone. They tap again when they want you to read with them. If they say a word wrong, wait for them to correct it. If they don't, help them with the word. It is also good to stop at any logical point to discuss the story or text.
3. Listen to Children Read-Let the child select a book or story that they practice reading aloud several times. You can assist them as needed. When they are ready, let them read the book to you, to another family member, or to a friend. Reader's Theater is another fun way to listen to children read. Choose a story or book with several characters that speak or an actual play. If you have more than one child, let them practice different characters. Encourage them to change their voice to match how different characters may sound. You or someone else can be the narrator. The repeated reading practice develops oral reading, and performing for someone can be really fun!

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