



The Benefits of Raising a Reader

Literacy is a fundamental building block for success in life.

- A baby's brain is twice as active as an adult's, by age 3, it has already reached 80% of adult size.
- Children need to hear a great deal of language in order to understand vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation.
- The critical window of sensitivity to language begins to close at 5 years of age.
- Listening and speaking are precursors for recognizing printed words and connecting them with visual and oral meanings.
- Reading aloud with children is an essential component to language development.

Why should we read to children?

Reading to children establishes a bond, attachment and sense of security. Through listening to stories children begin to develop:

- An understanding of language
- New vocabulary and concepts
- A love of books and a desire to become a reader
- A sense of accomplishment as their understanding and skills grow
- Knowledge about their world
- Attentive behavior and listening ability
- An Increased attention span

Setting the Stage

- Get close and snuggle up
- Make eye contact
- Ask open ended questions (Why? What is happening here?)
- Talk about the title, author and illustrator and what that means
- Draw attention to illustrations
- Take a picture walk through the book
- Have fun, make faces, move your body
- Encourage children to have fun, share their thoughts and act out parts of the story

