

READ-ALoud TIPS

“Reading aloud is the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading.” (*Becoming a Nation of Readers, Anderson, et. al*)

- **Make reading aloud fun.** Read the story to yourself first. Don't share a book that you find boring. There are plenty of stories you can both enjoy. Create different voices for different characters. Read with enthusiasm.
- **Create a routine.** Read-aloud time can be a great time to connect with your child and relax at the end of the day. Children enjoy the anticipation – “first pajamas, then brush teeth, then a story.”
- **Continue reading even as children get older.** Studies have shown that listening skills are stronger than reading skills until about the eighth grade. 15 to 20 minutes of reading a day helps reading skills continue to develop.
- **Enjoy those favourites.** Children develop “favourite” stories. They enjoy the predictability of knowing what comes next, and they can learn all the words as they hear them again and again. As your child's reading skill grows, they may enjoy reading their favourites to you or read alternating pages with you.
- **Talk about the book.** “What do you think will happen next?” Let your child ask questions about the story too. Save questions for the end if your child is impatient with interruptions of the story. Leave time for children to look at the illustrations and tell you what they see.
- **Visit your public library.** Take your child to the library. Get them their own library card. Ask the librarian to show you where different topics are located. Most libraries have lists of recommended books for different ages that can help you select quality literature for your child. Books on tape or on CD can let you listen to a good story together. Listen to the story and read along in the book.
- **Create a home library.** Select a shelf where your children can begin collecting their own books. Book clubs and library book sales can be an inexpensive way to start a collection.

This tip sheet is being brought to you by the YMCA. YMCAs across Canada serve over 500,000 children in various programs. YMCA Canada is a member of the Abundant Assets Alliance, a partnership of YMCA Canada, the YMCA of the USA and Search Institute, working together to help young people obtain the 40 developmental assets that they need in order to thrive. To learn more about the developmental assets and how you can help your child build these assets, visit www.abundantassets.org.

One of the developmental assets that helps young people thrive is “Reading for Pleasure.” This series of tip sheets and the resource, *Raising Kids Who Read*, created by YMCA Canada, helps adults build this asset with the young people in their lives. To download copies of any of these resources, go to http://www.ymca.ca/eng_ycdaresources.htm#Res6.



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strong families, strong communities.