

Carolina School for Inquiry
Curriculum Night
September 7, 2006
Read Aloud

Engaging in this kind of conspiracy with children is perhaps the greatest benefit of reading aloud to them. As we share the words and pictures, the ideas and viewpoints, the rhythms and rhymes, the pain and comfort, the hopes and fears and big issues of life that we encounter together in the pages of a book, we connect through minds and hearts with our children and bond closely in a secret society associated with the books we have shared.

Reading Magic: Why Reading Aloud to Our Children Will Change Their Lives Forever
Mem Fox, 2001

Why should we read aloud with our children?

- ❖ Conversation around read aloud has been linked positively to IQ development. The more we talk to our kids, the brighter they will be.
- ❖ It has a calming affect on all of us
- ❖ Bridges the gap between oral and written language
- ❖ Provides a good model of fluent reading
- ❖ Exposes kids to a wide variety of genre
- ❖ Helps solidify the family bond
- ❖ Creates a love of reading

Things to remember about reading aloud:

- ❖ Three stories a day is ideal...one favorite, one familiar, and one new but the same three times is also fine because repetition helps them pick up story language
- ❖ Read everything, signs, magazines, billboards, marquees, cereal boxes, shampoo bottles...
- ❖ Read aloud to your children until they just won't have it!

There is NO exact way to read aloud but here are some things to think about:

- ❖ Eyes...tell the story with your eyes as well as your voice
- ❖ Voice...fast slow, loud, soft, high, low and pause
- ❖ Author is writing with the reader in mind...try to figure out what the author would want us to know about the characters, setting story and then breath that life into them.
- ❖ Savor the last line
"Expressive reading is reading that is remembered"

Ways to enrich read aloud...

- ❖ Play tricks with books (upside down, backwards, wrong story characters, etc.)
- ❖ Notice words, rhymes, repeat phrases
- ❖ Always read the whole story first and then talk about phrases, words, and letters and then back to the whole story.

So if we want our children to learn how to read anything – let alone to read more, or to read more diverse or more difficult material – it helps if we can give them as much experience with print as possible."

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