

Here are some general tips for leading a successful read aloud! Be sure to check out our website and social media for more support and ideas!

BEFORE YOUR READ ALOUD

Planning Your Read Aloud

Plan enough time, but not too much time!

- 15-20 minutes, max
- If your group includes mostly younger children (0-7 years), plan even less time (10-12 minutes)

Choose a book!

- Check out the Oakland Public Library Kids page for [recommended books](#)! They have great categories and even an entire section for Children's Book Award books.
- Need more help choosing a book for your Read Aloud? Reach out to [Rebecca](#)!

Preview and Practice!

- Familiarize yourself with the book. Read through the book out loud so you're comfortable reading and can read easily.
- Note places you might want to stop and ask questions to the audience. A general rule is to stop once every 2-3 pages to ask a question. Put a sticky note on those pages.

Some question ideas:

- Ask children to make a prediction about what might happen next. (E.g.: "The soccer ball flew over the fence into Mr. Blip's yard. Oh no! What do you think they will do next?")
- Ask children to make a connection - with the characters, with something that happens in the story, or with another book. (E.g.: "It seems like Lara is excited for the birthday party. Have you ever been to a birthday party?")
- Figure out the best way to hold the book while you read. You want to make sure both you and your audience can see the pictures as you read, so you might have to hold it to one side, or switch back and forth, as you turn the pages.

AT YOUR READ ALOUD

Before Reading

Introduce book to group.

- Point out cover illustration, title, author.
- Ask a few questions before you read to help get children ready for the book.

- Ask students to predict what the book might be about or what they might learn.
- Try to help kids make a connection to topic. (E.g.: *“This is a story about a girl who is new to her school. Has anyone here ever been new at school?”* or *“This story is about a boy who has a dog for a pet. Does anyone here have a pet?”*)

During Reading

Keep children engaged with the book as you read.

- Hold the book so both you and the children can see the pictures.
 - You might have to hold it to one side, or switch back and forth as you turn the pages.
- Read with expression and interest. Try to read as fluently as possible, but it’s OK if you make a mistake - just correct yourself and keep going. (This is good for kids to see!)
- Stop every page or two to ask a question from your sticky note, or have children respond to what’s happening in the book.
 - Allow 1-2 students to answer each time, and then move on. You don’t want to lose your momentum!
- Encourage predictions.

After Reading

Ask children questions about the story.

- E.g.: *“Has this ever happened to anyone?”*
- E.g.: *“Why do you think X, Y, Z happened?”*

Point out parts that you noticed/liked/were surprised by, and ask students to do the same.

- E.g.: *“What part surprised you?”*
- E.g.: *“What part did you like/not like? Why?”*