Strategy #1: Interactive Read-Alouds

- Read-alouds are a form of shared reading, where children engage and interact with the story while it’s read to them!
- Listening to stories helps children understand the basics of how a story works, including:
  - the structure of a beginning, middle, and end
  - elements like characters, setting, and plot
- Interactive Read-Alouds are a great way to introduce concepts or themes to children, e.g. kindness or diversity!

Tips for Providers

- Ask children what types of stories/books they like. Pick accordingly!
- Figure out a routine! What seating location, layout, time of day/week works?
- Make Reading Fun: Get kids involved in reading in creative ways! Consider: making facial expressions, acting, using puppets, singing the story, etc.
- Ask Questions: Try to stop and ask questions whenever possible - it helps build children’s critical thinking skills to ask questions that start with “Why?” or “What if?”
- Point out the pictures! Describe the colors, shapes, sizes, animals, actions, etc.
- Follow their lead - what are kids noticing in the story? This is a great chance to ask more questions and provide information on their interests!

Ready-to-use Virtual Resources

- Check out the wide variety of QSLA’s Early Literacy Resources, offered in English and Spanish; including an Early Literacy Toolkit with guidance on how to create reading routines, bring in fun, create a book nook, & storytelling!
- QSLA also offers a variety of themed booklists on topics including culture, traditions, feelings, holidays, and history - in English & Spanish!
- Check out LA County Library’s Tumblebook Library for great virtual options including stories, read-alongs, videos, language learning, and more!
- Sesame Street in Communities has a Reading and Writing page with great early literacy activities including storybooks, articles, videos, and games!

Strategy #2: Repeated Reading to Build Fluency

- Repeated reading gives kids a model for reading! There are two types:
  - Echo reading: “I read, then you read” (even if children can’t read text yet, they can repeat after us)
  - Choral reading: “Say the next line with me”
- This works best when we repeat a story over multiple days.
- Kids learn from hearing the same sounds and repeating the same lines as it builds their vocabulary & understanding of sentence structure.

Tips for Providers

- Point out new words: Make sure to highlight words we think kids don’t know - a new or bigger word and give the definition.
- Practice makes progress: We can help kids practice saying sounds and words that are tricky or confusing.
- Keep it fresh! If you’re tired of listening to the same story for the 15th time, it may be time to introduce a new story on the same topic.

Supporting Families at Home

- Modeling over telling: Modeling early literacy behaviors for families provides greater impact and understanding of best practices.
- Create video examples: We can record short videos or host live video calls with a child to demonstrate read-alouds or echo & choral reading for families.
- Share resources:
  - Provide copies of stories to families, whether online or print outs
  - Share videos of read alouds, including YouTube channels or this site with famous people reading stories
  - Give families bookmarks with examples of open-ended questions.
  - Support virtual and physical access to books & stories by connecting families to early literacy websites, public libraries, and community book programs!
- (Including the resources from Strategy #1!)

Source: National Center for Families Learning; “Reading Strategies from Classroom to Home” Link here.
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Tips for Families

- Ask your child “What types of stories or books do you like?” Pick accordingly!
- Figure out a routine! What spot in the house is most quiet or comfortable?
- Make reading fun! Set your child involved in reading in creative ways! Consider making facial expressions, acting, using puppets, singing the story, etc.
- Ask questions: Try to stop and ask questions whenever possible – it helps build your child’s critical thinking skills to ask questions starting with “Why?” or “What if?”
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Bringing Reading into Our Home

- Modeling works: When we model reading at home, we will see a bigger difference in how our kids approach books, storytelling, and a love of reading.
- Try videos: Explore short videos or live video calls from centers or libraries with story hours as a way to experience being part of the audience with your kids!
  - Search for YouTube channels dedicated to read-alouds, like this one featuring famous people reading stories!
  - Seek resources, virtual or physical!
    - Request copies of stories, online or physical, from your early care provider!
    - Look for guides or bookmarks for support!
    - Explore virtual and physical options for books & stories offered by early literacy websites, public libraries, and community book programs!
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