

Reading Strategies from Classroom to Home: Tips for Providers



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** and **time of day/week** work best?
- **Make reading fun:** Get 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!** (Including the resources from Strategy #1!)

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