

Tips for Reading Aloud to Children

“Every time you read to a child, you’re sending a ‘pleasure’ message to the child’s brain.” —Jim Trelease, author of The Read-Aloud Handbook

We often say that children spell love “T-I-M-E.”

But I wonder if they don’t also spell it “R-E-A-D.”

I think children who are read to regularly and who learn to enjoy reading are more apt to view the Bible as a readable book. And I can’t help thinking about the impact on faith development when we reading the Bible aloud.

*So read aloud to your child—enjoyable children’s books AND the Bible!
Here are some read-aloud tips to get you started.*

- **Try varying your voice or adding sound effects** as you read. No need to be shy!
- If you’re reading an illustrated book, **take time to talk about the pictures**. Invite your child to tell you what’s happening in a picture, how a character in an illustration is feeling, or what might happen next.
- **Let your child interrupt** the story to ask questions.
- **Encourage younger children to hold the book and turn the pages as you read.**
- **Try to relate a story to your child’s real-world experiences**, for example, “Do you remember when our family took a trip?” or “That donkey looks like the one you rode at the petting zoo.”
- If your child likes to read aloud, **take turns**. Let him read to you.
- **Remember that good books are made to be read more than once.**

Happy reading!

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