



**Read together every day, no matter the distance.**  
It strengthens bonds and fosters a child's development.



## Say Hello!

Before you start reading, begin with an enthusiastic introduction, show the book's cover, and remind children to get their book to follow along.

## Read Expressively

Use different voices, make sound effects, and vary the pitch of your voice. Get dramatic with it!

## Describe — and Model — Facial Expressions and Body Language

If a character is displaying an emotion, ask your child to make that expression and what it means to feel that way. Wait for a moment or two and then model the feelings for them.

## Ask Questions to Spark Conversation and Foster Empathy

- Literal Questions:
  - What color is that?
  - How many ducks are there on the page?
- Inferential Questions:
  - Does the bear look happy?
  - How does that make her feel?
- Evaluative Questions:
  - What would you do if you were in their shoes?
  - Should the dog do that?

## Pause

When you ask your child a question or ask them to do something, make sure to take a moment to let them respond. It may feel funny on-video but it allows them to engage the same way as they would with you in-person.



## Describe the Images

Focus first on one or two objects such as the geography, characters, or people on the page to help kids better understand the text and learn new vocabulary. For busier pages, hold the book even longer toward the camera to allow children to study them easier.

## Help Kids Focus

Kids can follow along directly in the book when you read aloud in person. When reading aloud on video, it can be more challenging, so occasionally mentioning things like, “we’re halfway through the book” or “eight more pages left” help keep children engaged.

## It is Okay to Point

Point to the words and pictures as you read. Doing this helps kids follow along and also learn how language works.

## Make It Personal

Talk about the story and relate it to your or your kid’s life experiences. Replace a character’s name with the child’s name you are reading too. Both will help children feel even more connected to you and the story.

## Use Props

If you have a toy, costume, or object that matches the book, use it to make the experience more memorable.

## Take Your Time

Read slowly and explore the book. It is okay to skip over material and simplify the language if needed. If you can’t finish the whole book, choose a stopping point and tell your child another video is coming with more of the story.

## The Closing

Thank your audience for reading with you, tell them how much you enjoyed it, and that you cannot wait to read with them again.

When children are read to by people they love, children learn to love books!

