

How to Choose a Read Aloud Book

Choosing a book is an important first step but shouldn't be overwhelming. Choose a book with content that your child is familiar with or one with new objects or concepts. Don't hesitate to choose a book from an age group above that of your child's age. If a book is beyond a child's reading ability now, they will still enjoy listening to you read it. Pre-read the entire book before you make your final choice to make sure you are comfortable reading it aloud. Remember – a child is never too old to be read aloud to, it is a bonding experience!

Birth to Age 3

- Books about common objects, family members, or pets help you give language to describe his/her life experiences and surroundings.
- Simple text written in story form can accompany pictures. Stories can become more involved with simple information and you might ask about the pictures such as, "What is the puppy doing?"
- Choose a book with a simple rhyme, animal sounds, and repeating phrases.

Ages 4 to 7

- Choose a book that tells a sequential story with pictures.
- Humorous books that relate to the child's real-life experiences are always a favorite. Their imagination is developing, a fantasy story is a great way to pretend within the safety of a book.
- Series books about the same character are fun.
- Books that reinforce age appropriate interests, such as alphabet and counting concepts, going to school, animals, holidays, cultural differences.

Ages 8 to 11

- Choose a book or magazine that contains new information that your child may not be familiar with or information that you both have in common.
- Select a story with more story and fewer pictures.
- Consider children's biographies about famous people in sports or history or a classic or humorous poetry collections with clear illustrations that you can share.
- Chapter books or a book that is part of a series can be started by you and continued at home by the child or the child's caregiver.

Ages 12 to 18

- Pick a chapter book and read one chapter to kick it off, then have your child finish reading on their own.
- Choose a book that can teach life lessons or start important conversations.
- Reading aloud stimulates vocabulary growth.
- Choose a book that you would enjoy reading, your enjoyment will come through on the video.
- Select a favorite from when the child was younger that has sentimental value. You are never too old for Dr. Seuss!

For suggestions about books to pack or send for recording, check out our booklist at:

<http://unitedthroughreading.org/book-list>

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