WHY READ ALOUD?

WHEN YOU READ ALOUD, YOUR CHILD...

- **Learns about words and language**, about grammar, new, complex and difficult words and interesting words – while having fun begins to notice how the language of books differs from spoken language.
- Listens to the sounds in words and notices how some are the same and some are different.
- Builds their vocabulary with new words
- Expands their listening skills. Remember: The art of listening is an acquired one. It must be taught and cultivated gradually—it doesn’t happen overnight.
- Gains background knowledge about a variety of topics.
- Talks about the characters, settings, and plot and relates them to their own lives.

READING ALOUD....

- **Stimulates the mind.** The listener is required to actively create the images and characterisation necessary to understand a story. Television, on the other hand, is a passive activity, which supplies its own images. The brain goes to sleep. Reading Aloud “works” because it stimulates a child’s brain to be active (even though the child thinks he/she is merely being entertained).

- **Creates better readers.** This means both preparing children to be able to read; and for children already reading, improving their ability with words so they can read better.

- **Enables students to better succeed at all tasks in school** that require the ability to listen. It does this by increasing students’ attention spans, vocabulary and understanding of how grammar, sentences and paragraphs work. It introduces them to more complex characters and plots. Best of all, none of these skills require worksheets or drill. Reading aloud yields better readers and better students, making school easier for those blessed with its educational benefits.

- **Brings literature to our children.** Literature expands our minds. It exposes children to new and different perspectives, cultures, points, of view, contexts, situations, phenomena... It teaches children -without their knowing it - to be more open-minded, versatile and more curious.

- **Is an incomparable way for parents and children to spend - and share - time together;** to develop and grow an emotional bond. Studies have even shown that information and knowledge are retained better when accompanied by an emotional attachment. Reading Aloud brings you stories and love and educational merit.
EASY TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

Reading to your kids is one of the best gifts you can give them. Not only is it a great way to bond, but you're also preparing your child to read on his own.

It takes a while to get used to reading aloud. But with a little practice and these tips, you too can become a master storyteller.

Set aside special times each day to read to your child
- Select a place that is cosy, quiet and away from distractions.
- Cuddle up together so you can laugh, be silly, relax and enjoy!
- Read to children… don't expect them to read. If they chime in on a word now and then, it's a bonus.

Pick a great book
- Choose books that interest both you and your child.
- Choose books with rich illustrations so you have more to talk about than the words on the page.
- Read children's favourites as often as they want to hear them!

Read slowly with expression and enthusiasm
- Read at a leisurely pace with pauses here and there. This gives children time to take in what they hear, to notice the pictures and to build mental pictures of what you have read.
- Read with expression and feeling - try different voices and sounds - make the snake hisssss and the door creeeak! Use pacing by reading slower or faster as the story changes.

Involve your child
- Stop and talk about some of the pages. Don’t feel like you have to read uninterrupted.
- Share your feelings with each other during exciting or sad parts.
- Make mistakes: This is fun to do, especially when reading a book you’ve read a hundred times before. Try replacing words and let your child correct you. For example, try saying, “Don’t let the pigeon drive the car!” and you’ll be met with screams of “the BUS!” Not only does this involve your child, but it also shows him that it’s okay to make mistakes when reading.

Ask questions
- Ask your child to find things in the illustrations. Many books have things hidden in the illustrations for this purpose. Look closely at the pictures and use them to understand the story and make predictions about what might happen next.
  - “What do you think is going to happen next?”
  - “What would you do if she were the character?”
  - “Where did he go? Why did she do that?”
- Kids love showing off their knowledge. They love knowing a book or story thoroughly and in detail - pretty soon, they’ll be asking you questions.
- Knowing there will be questions gives them a reason to pay even closer attention!
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<th>WHAT DO I READ?</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Children feel good about their growing skills and accomplishments ...</strong></td>
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<td>read stories about young children who have similar experiences.</td>
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<td><strong>Children have good memories. ...</strong></td>
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<td>read stories they can retell in their own words with repetitive and predictable rhymes, phrases, and story lines that let them participate.</td>
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<td><strong>Children are building their listening skills and attention spans.</strong></td>
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<td>Read longer picture books and begin chapter books that last for several sessions.</td>
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<td><strong>Children are curious.</strong></td>
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<td>Read information books with facts, explanations, and new people, places, and things.</td>
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<td><strong>Children know a lot about their own world.</strong></td>
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<td>Read books that let them use their knowledge and books that introduce new topics, facts, and ideas.</td>
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<td><strong>Children have vivid imaginations.</strong></td>
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<td>Read folk tales and books with animal characters that think and talk like humans.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Children are learning about the sounds of letters and words.</strong></td>
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<td>Read books with rhymes and alliteration.</td>
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