

## Reading Aloud with Children

Hi- I'm Bonnie Lieberman, the author of "The Radiant Cap". I think of it as a magical story with lots of whimsy and an important message communicated by the cadence, lyrical language with vibrant illustrations that make the story come alive.

As you probably know, "read to me books" build language skills: increasing vocabulary, enriching social language skills, both expressive, (speaking) and receptive (understanding). By reading with your child, you can encourage literacy skills like predicting, retelling, sequencing and summarizing that they will need when they begin to read.

Before you read the book to the child, here are just a few suggestions:

Take a picture walk. Begin by showing the child the front cover. Introduce the name of the book. You might slide your finger under each word of the title or even throughout the pages to show that we read from left to right. Ask what the title might mean and talk a bit about the characters and setting. This should generate curiosity.

Then, leaf through a few of the illustrations with the child and talk about what you notice and what you are wondering about. As an example, if a character is putting on dressy - clothes, you may say, "I wonder where he or she is going." You may ask, "Where do you think she might be going? Why do you think so? Let's read to find out.

(You are actually teaching previewing and predicting which helps with comprehension)

Read with expression to keep your audience excited!

**Here are a few helpful ideas you the adult can do to build vocabulary- During the activity, talk about unfamiliar words. Depending upon the age of the boy or girl, define it, or read the word, then read the words to find out whether, while prompting, if he/she can figure out the meaning. Use it in a sentence, and encourage your child to use it also, but in a fun way. Use the word often. Trust me, he or she will be using it when talking with friends!**

### Other Ideas

During read-aloud time, be sure to make the story real by pointing at certain details in the illustrations and discuss how they convey the emotions of the characters. Make sure your child can clearly see the pictures, and perhaps, even turn the pages to make him or her more engaged.

4. You can encourage critical thinking by asking questions beginning with each of the five "W"s. In addition, have a dialogue with questions like, "How do you think \_\_\_\_\_ felt

when\_\_\_\_\_?” “What is the problem\_\_\_\_\_ is having?” Ask what your child would do if he or she were faced with such a situation? What do you think will happen next? Why? Which character are you like? Which character do you admire or would you like to be friends with? Why do you say that? Do you know anyone like any of the characters? Tell me about that. Tell me more. What else?

5. If your boy or girl is a pre- or beginning reader, please, slide your finger under the words of the title or any other words and phrases to further involve him or her. Finally, make lots of eye contact, give lots of praise and make reading aloud a daily way of bonding together.

Don't forget to ask whether he/she enjoyed the book and ask about most and least favorite characters illustrations and parts.