



UNITED THROUGH READING®

Are You Reading Aloud With Your Infant/Toddler?

It is never too early to begin reading aloud with your child. A child's brain capacity for intellect is already half developed by the time they are four years old. Your voice alone while reading aloud during pregnancy stimulates brain development. Furthermore, it introduces sounds as language as well as provides a special intimate moment. Reading aloud with your baby can provide a head start in language development while enhancing the bond between child and parent or caregiver. Reading aloud truly can bring magic into your life and the life of your child.

Birth –Age 3

Make time daily to read aloud, creating special bonding moments and snuggle time.

Choose books that have bright pictures to share with your child to stimulate sight and imagination.

Age appropriate picture books will naturally introduce colors, sounds and language patterns.

Read slowly and encourage the child to point to different items in the books. Children will learn to identify objects.

Supply board books to encourage your infant to begin looking at books independently.

Model a love for books by reading your own books in front of your child.

Help children understand how to take "good care" of books.

Sing stories from books or invent your own songs to further excite and delight the child.

Re-read your child's favorite stories, supporting their interests and curiosity.

Allow children to touch, feel, and even play with different reading material. Children enjoy turning the pages of almost any type of book!

Take requests! Your child will be excited about books and reading.

Talk to your child. Share your own stories

Enjoy every moment; time flies! Read aloud with your child!



PROGRAM OVERVIEW: An underway, quality-of-life program in which deployed personnel communicate with children through the medium of reading stories aloud on videotape.

PROGRAM FEATURES: Allows deployed parents and children to communicate in a meaningful way during separations.

- Boosts family morale and reinforces parental support felt by spouse at home.
- Eases children's fears about parent's absence and reduces anxiety upon reunion.
- Trains parents in techniques to make the videotaped reading personal and interactive.
- Strengthens relationships between parents and children while teaching the joy of reading.



Thanks, Family Literacy Foundation!

"I loved the interaction with the video and child the most. It was incredible to watch his eyes light up, he start smiling and before I knew it, my son was talking back to the video as if his Daddy was in the room with him. It was great!"

Homefront Coordinator



"It definitely fills a gap. One of my biggest fears has been that she wouldn't recognize me after being gone so long. This program eliminates that fear because it lets my child know that I am still there for her."

Active Duty Participant

"Nickelodeon's SpongeBob SquarePants is going to take back seat to Dad on the TV reading tonight."

Active Duty Coordinator

DETAILS: Individuals who are separated from their families due to military obligations read stories on videotape and send the tape home to the child. Family Literacy Foundation trains deploying personnel and home front volunteers to manage the program while the ship is underway.

Deployed active duty volunteers promote the program throughout the ship, schedule videotaping sessions and provide coaching tips to participants. Homefront volunteers initially assist with creating an onboard library of children's books and then promote the program during deployment.

In order to gain full benefits from the program, we encourage families that receive videotapes to provide feedback to the deployed member; in the form of letters, email, photographs or even videotape of the child watching the parent's tape. **This is called the "Full Circle Method of Communication."**

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How Your Video Will Affect Your Child

There are three factors that are particularly important in the development of a child's ability to read. Reading to your child(ren) on videotape can provide the experiences necessary for reading readiness. Although you are not present in the home you can continue to be a "teacher" to your child by participating in Family Literacy Foundation's Uniting Through Reading program.

Children need many beginning experiences with words, letters and sounds.

- Young children learn from repetition and can review the videotape over and over learning the patterns and rhythm of the story.
- Reading a story will introduce your child to new concepts such as shapes, colors and numbers.
- Your child's vocabulary will grow as they listen to new words through the stories you're reading.
- Asking questions and other interactive techniques that stimulate a response provide an opportunity for immediate reinforcement of a new concept, idea, or word.
- When the child watches the videotape their brain is stimulated, contributing to a child's ability to read.

It is very important that a child feel confident and safe within their environment.

- Your child can see your face often by watching the videotape.
- The videotape will send a message to the child that they are loved and cared for.
- Your child will understand that you are away, but that you care enough to take the time to read to them on videotape.
- You can send messages of encouragement and praise relating to your child's everyday life.
- Your child may be comforted by the sound of your voice.
- Through the videotape you can reassure your child of where you are.

Children can become motivated and inspired as they develop a love for reading and a desire to read.

- Your child will feel excited because YOU are reading to him/her. Don't worry about making mistakes during the taping session.
- Children will relate books to positive experiences.
- You become a role model to your child. When you read in front of your child, the child become aware of the importance of books in your life and therefore will consider reading important in their own lives.
- You will help your child learn to read faster and easier because through the videotapes your child will develop or continue to enjoy a love books as well as "sharing" special time with you.

Reading aloud with young children establishes a strong foundation in the basic skills related to the development of a child's ability to read. Reading is a lifelong, continuous and reading aloud through Family Literacy Foundations program can provide the basis from where it all begins.