

TECHNIQUES FOR READING ALOUD TO CHILDREN

PREPARATION TECHNIQUES:

1. Be familiar with any book you plan to read to children. Familiarize yourself with the story, the characters, and the scenes. You want to make the book come alive for the children.
2. Practice any unusual phrases or rhythms and learn any new vocabulary terms in the book that may need to be explained to the children.
3. Prepare a reply for children who have already heard the story or who do not want to hear a story.
4. Practice using any visual aids, props, or pictures. Make sure that all visual aids are clean, simple, and large enough to be seen by all the children.
5. Prepare open-ended questions for the children to answer.
6. Prepare some summary remarks after the book has been read.
7. Prepare some transition remarks to lead into the next activity after the story has been read and the questions answered.

PRESENTATION TECHNIQUES:

1. Know how to pronounce the names of the author and illustrator. If you know something interesting about the author or illustrator, share it with the children.
2. Sit on the same level as the children. Sit directly in front of the children. Before you begin reading, be certain that all the children are seated where they can see the illustrations. (When reading to one child, sit next to the child's left. This helps with prereading skills as the child follows the reading from left to right.)
3. Introduce the book by giving the title, author, illustrator, and the subject of the book. Make the introduction interesting to get the children's attention.
4. Maintain as much eye contact with the children as possible. Be familiar with the book so that you do not need to keep your eyes glued to the page.
5. Use facial and verbal expressions. Your eyes, small body motions, and intonation and volume variance can make a huge difference in the children's response to the book. These techniques make the book come alive for the children.
6. While reading the book, hold it up in front of the children so they can see the illustration. If the book has few words per page, you will need to hold the pages open long enough for the children to see the illustrations. Do not be in a big rush! Give the children plenty of time to see the illustrations and pictures.
7. Use words the children may not have heard before. Explain what the words mean either before you begin reading the story or when you come to the word. Have the children repeat the word, then reinforce the learning by using the new word in other activities or interactions.