



Read Together, Learn Together

You don't have to be a teacher to help a child with hearing loss learn literacy skills. If you make reading aloud an important listening and learning experience every day, your child will gain important skills to become a healthy life-long reader.

Here are some ways you can help your child build their literacy skills by sharing books with them every day:

Open a Book, Fall into a Conversation

Keep it simple: Babies like to hear you talk. You don't need to read every word to infants. Hold the book and talk about the pictures. Use simple phrases, pause, and wait before reading the next page. Singing is also great during this time to give your baby time to listen and look at the pictures.

Read, Repeat, and Repeat

Children enjoy reading and rereading their favorites. Repetition helps children learn vocabulary and sentence structure. It might get old to you, but children enjoy the repetition and their brains need it to learn.

Open Up a New World

Choose different kinds of books so your child can learn about new people, places, and things that aren't part of their everyday experiences. This helps expand your child's vocabulary beyond the day-to-day experiences you're providing.

Up Level Your Words

Talk about the story using new vocabulary words and longer, more complex language. Your child will be able to hear and understand different types of sentences and questions that will help them later comprehend what they read.

Ham it Up

Really good stories have interesting characters and your child will love it when you change your voice for each one. Using different voices will also help your child listen to the rich tones and melody of your language.

Share the Love

When you show a love of books and reading, your child will learn from you and begin to love books, too. You want your child to love books so they'll want to keep practicing their reading skills and become a life-long reader.

Daily Practice, Long Term Payoffs

Your child needs daily practice sitting and listening. Choose books that are longer so your child can practice paying attention. If your child has more practice listening and paying attention, they'll become a better listener in school.

Get a Little Bit Closer

Reading aloud is a good time for you and other family members to share and bond with your child. When you share your thoughts and ideas about stories, your child can hear more about the life lessons you want them to learn.

Tell a Tale

Stories have a beginning, a middle, and an end, and storytelling is an important skill for your child to learn. Talk about the stories, actions, characters, and their feelings. Your child will learn to talk about their own experiences and feelings, and even make up stories of their own.