

From *After School Circular* from The Wyoming Department of Education Health and Safety Unit, 21st Century Community Learning Centers

The Benefits of Reading Aloud

Reading aloud to children and youth is one of the most important activities for reading success. It provides children with a demonstration of phrased, fluent reading. Reading aloud also reveals the rewards of reading and develops the listener's interest in books.

Listening to others read develops key understanding and skills, such as an appreciation for how a story is written and familiarity with book conventions, such as "once upon a time" and "happily ever after." Reading aloud demonstrates the relationship between the printed word and meaning (children understand that print tells a story or conveys information) and invites the listener into a conversation with the author.

Children can learn on a higher language level than they can read, so reading aloud makes complex ideas more accessible and exposes children to vocabulary and language patterns that are not part of everyday speech. This, in turn, helps them understand the structure of books when they read independently. Reading aloud also exposes less able readers to the same rich and engaging books that fluent readers read on their own, and entices them to become better readers. Students of any age benefit from hearing the reading of a wonderful book.

Source: www.nwrel.org/learns

Literacy Development

You don't have to be a literacy expert to help children develop reading, writing and communication skills—which are all a part of literacy. A few resources that may provide ideas and positive suggestions for books to utilize as part of read aloud time include:

101 Read Aloud Classics by Pamela Horn
Children's Classics to Read Aloud by Edward Blishen