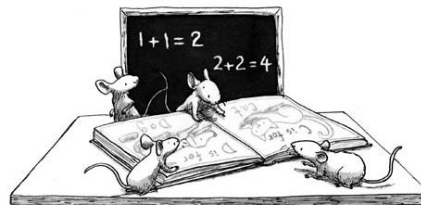


Reading for pleasure

The first step to reading for pleasure is listening to stories read aloud.



If you want to teach children to be readers ...

Read to children for the sheer pleasure it gives to listeners;
Read to children to share the joy, humour and power of words;
Read to children to engage and excite them with stories, poetry and information;
Find whatever reason, purpose, excuse that you wish ... but do it.
Read aloud to all the children in your school.

Reading aloud to children in school

When trying to motivate young children to read, reading aloud to them for pleasure is one of the most effective things to do. However, in addition to being so pleasurable, the impact of listening to a text being read aloud well benefits all aspects of learning to read. For example, reading aloud to children in school:

- Models how experienced readers use expression to reveal the meaning conveyed by grammar and punctuation
- Uses language and ideas that engage the imagination whilst providing a structured introduction to unfamiliar vocabulary
- Introduces authors, books and narratives which enhance literary knowledge
- Enables listeners to become vicariously 'lost in a book' (an essential experience if they are to become independent readers)*

It is important to read aloud in primary classrooms for many reasons but perhaps the most important one is to ensure that every child experiences the pleasures of reading. If children have never enjoyed being read to they have no way of knowing what personal satisfaction comes from wallowing in a good book. Letting one's mind drift into the imaginary world created by an author is, perhaps, the greatest source of pleasure we experience from reading. Being read to enables listeners to become entranced by a book at the time they are still learning to read.

*Goodwin, P. (2013) *Creating Readers* available from www.sla.org.uk

Six great books by Dick King-Smith to read aloud to key stage 1 pupils

The Hodgeheg	George Speaks
Sophie's Snail	The Guard Dog
The Twin Giants	Horse Pie

Six great books by Dick King-Smith to read aloud to key stage 2 pupils

The Fox Busters	Magnus Powermouse
The Sheep-Pig	Daggie Dogfoot
The Queen's Nose	Harry's Mad