

Information for parents and teachers

Reading – Adaptations and modifications that can be used with young children

Prepared by Dr Angela Wilson, Senior Research Fellow, CHERI

Reading can be one of the most important activities of the day for your children and one that they will remember once they have grown up. It usually only takes a relatively short time to read a book to a young child or to a kindergarten class. Some tips to make reading to children more enjoyable and informative are as follows:

- Many children like to have a book read aloud to them even if they can read it themselves. If reading a book to children, you can usually select one a little more difficult than their current level.
- Look at the pictures and illustrations shown in the book with the children. This usually means being on the same eye level as the young listeners. Point out features and have the children point out features in the pictures/illustrations.
- Sit on a low chair so you can see the faces of the child or children you are reading to. Make sure they can see your face and any facial expressions you may make when reading the story. Your facial expression can help convey the meaning and the mood of the story.
- When you are reading aloud occasionally pause in mid-sentence and ask if a child can complete the sentence or passage for you.
- When you have finished reading the book, ask the children some questions about the story and what happened at certain stages in the story. This can give them valuable experience in sequencing and putting events into a logical order.
- Ask children to tell you about the story or to tell other children or an adult about the story. Even older children will enjoy hearing an old favourite or a new book read aloud. Poems and plays can also form part of this reading activity.

For more Information

If you require further information please contact:

CHERI
The Children's Hospital at Westmead
Locked Bag 4001
Westmead NSW 2145

Tel: (02) 9845 0418
Fax: (02) 9845 0421
Email: info@cheri.com.au

Disclaimer: This fact sheet is for personal use only. Please consult with other professionals, where appropriate, to ensure this information is suitable for your needs.

Copyright © CHERI

