

# Building Blocks

Self Selected Reading  
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# Reading to Children



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# Benefits of Reading Aloud to Children

Reading aloud to children is the single most important activity for creating the motivation and background knowledge essential to success in reading.

(Anderson, Hiebert, Scott, and Wilkerson)

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## Benefits (continued)

- # “reading aloud to children wakens their sleeping imaginations and improves their deteriorating language skills;” it also “improves children’s attitudes toward books and reading.” (Trelease, 1982)
- # “Sense of story”
- # Information
- # Fiction/nonfiction

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## Reading and “Blessing Books”

- # Children want to read the books their teacher has read to them
- # Children gain knowledge of the book through a read aloud
- # Demonstrate how the student could “read” the book

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## Reading a Wide Range of Books, Levels, and Authors

- # Old favorites
- # New “hits”
- # Picture books
- # Informational books
- # Fiction
- # Children are usually interested in anything their teacher is interested in
  - pages 32-38, Teacher’s Guide—take 3-5 minutes place a check mark by the books you currently have, share with a neighbor your favorites

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## Souvenirs

- ✦ Concrete remembrances of a special trip, or a special experience, or book
- ✦ Concrete, tangible objects are wonderful reminders of experiences
- ✦ Prompt retelling of the story
- ✦ A goldfish cracker after reading *Swimmy*
- ✦ A piece of yarn after reading *The Mitten*  
-refer back to pages 32-38, Discuss things you could use for souvenirs, share

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## How Reading to Children is Multilevel

- ✦ Children are learning a variety of things:
  - books provide enjoyment and information
  - to recall events and remember details
  - to visualize what happened which aids in comprehension
  - to read and/or pretend read
  - Learn about genres
  - listening skills

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## Children Reading by Themselves

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## Children Reading by Themselves

- ✦ Children need time to read or pretend read by themselves in order to develop an “I can attitude.”
- ✦ Reading centers
- ✦ Self-selected reading-later in the year
- ✦ Take-home reading

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## Teaching Students the Three Ways to “Read”

- ✦ You can read by reading all the words
- ✦ You can “pretend read” by retelling the story
- ✦ You can “picture read” by looking at the pictures in a book and talking about the things you see

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## Reading in Centers (All Year)

- ✦ Children explore and discover their environment individually or in small groups
- ✦ Two things to remember:
  - Children should have a comfortable place to read alone or with a friend
  - Provide lots of good books and other materials from which they can choose
- ✦ The more a child “reads” a book, the more practice they have with reading, the better they will get at reading
- ✦ Build intrinsic motivation

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## Reading the Room Center (All year)

- ✦ Child uses a magic wand or pointer to go around pointing and “reading” the words in the room- often done with a partner
  - Color words
  - Number words
  - Months and days
  - Weather words
  - Words in the writing center
- ✦ Helps children learn to read and helps them when they write
- ✦ Provides correctly spelled words for children to use while they are writing

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## Self-Selected Reading (Later in the Year)

- ✦ Choose books they want to read
- ✦ Introduce whisper reading
- ✦ Book baskets filled with a variety of books
- ✦ Begin with setting a timer for 5 minutes, increase a minute or two each week
- ✦ Teacher roams the classroom and listens to students, oohs and ahs at students attempt at reading, “coach” a child or two that might need some extra help when reading

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## Take-Home Reading (Later in the Year)

- ✦ Take home reading program
  - Take-home readers
  - Simple directions
  - Should not stress the number of books read, difficulty, or length
  - Should be praised for what they can read
- ✦ Promotes the enjoyment of reading

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## How Reading by Children is Multilevel

- ✦ Some children need time to handle books
  - Books are held a certain way and pages are turned a certain way
  - Learn to tell what books are about by looking at the pictures
  - Look for familiar words
- ✦ Some children will pretend read
  - Use the picture clues as prompts, and think they know what to say on each page
- ✦ Some children will “really read”
  - Become more fluent at reading
- ✦ Choice

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## Resources

- ✦ *The Teacher's Guide to Building Blocks*, by Dorothy P Hall & Elaine Williams
- ✦ *Month-By-Month Reading and Writing For Kindergarten*, by Dorothy P. Hall and Patricia Cunningham

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