

45 FUN WAYS TO MAKE READ ALOUD TIME THE BEST PART OF YOUR DAY

Struggling with read aloud time with your kids? Maybe they're just not interested or won't sit still? Maybe you're tired of reading the same book night after night? Or you're just plain tired after a long, busy day? This collection of 45 ideas can help make read aloud time more enjoyable for everyone – the ideas are fun and frivolous and I am certain they can help to make read aloud time the very best part of your day.

1. **Read aloud time doesn't have to be at bedtime - try breakfast.**
2. Or bathtime!
3. **Have your children act out the story as you read.**
4. Read with a funny voice – a posh princess, a bumblebee or a deep sea diver are especially fun!
5. **Make craft stick puppets and retell the story together.**
6. Read in a hammock.
7. **Wear a pair of funny glasses and call them your magic reading glasses.**
8. Take blankets outside to make a big bed on the trampoline and snuggle down to read together.
9. **Pause at the end of each page to ask a question about the story .**
10. Add super cool sound effects as you read.
11. **Ask your child to ring a bell so you know when it's time to turn the page, just like they do in the CD book sets. This is great for encouraging early readers to follow along with the text as you read.**
12. Make up funny actions to accompany the story.
13. **Read while your child draws or colours.**
14. Read by torchlight.
15. **Read one of your favourite childhood books.**
16. Put on a hand puppet (or use a sock as a puppet) and have it read the story to your child.
17. **Listen to an audio story version of your child's favourite book together.**
18. For books featuring chants or rhyming words, pause before the second word in the rhyming pair so your child can fill in the missing word or phrase.
19. **Make a video of you reading the story aloud and watch it together.**
20. Read really, really slowly or really, really fast.
21. **Send a copy of your child's favourite book to a relative and invite them to read it via FaceTime.**
22. Sing the story.
23. **Read by candlelight.**
24. Echo read together - you read a phrase and your child echoes it back to you.
25. **Deliberately mix up the words so your child has to correct you.**
26. **Rename a main character with your child's name to make them part of the story.**
27. Channel your inner actor and read with a particularly dramatic flair.
28. **Make a play fort lined with lots of cushions and read in comfort.**
29. When reading to your beginning (or independent) reader, take turns reading a sentence, paragraph or page each.
30. **Let your child read the story to you - chances are even your pre-reader knows the words of their favourite book perfectly!**
31. Or have them read it to the family pet.
32. **Tell a personal story from your own childhood.**
33. Tell a made up story from your own imagination.
34. **Make an old fashioned tin can telephone and read across the room.**
35. Make a whisper phone and invite your child to listen to themselves read the story.
36. **Invite your child to read aloud the character parts for one main character.**
37. As you read invite your child to draw a map of the story's setting.
38. **Invite an older sibling to read to younger children.**
39. Chorus read in unison with your early reader.
40. **Invite your child to use soft toys as the characters to act out the story as you read.**
41. Dress up as a character from the book and have fun reading in character.
42. **Search the pages for a letter or word your early reader knows. Count how many instances of that letter/word you can find throughout the book.**
43. Make up quiz clues about the story and ask your child to find the part of the book that answers the question.
44. **Read like you are reading the news.**
45. Buy a new book that you know your child will love and convince them to donate the one you are tired of reading to a friend!

For more ideas for learning, playing and reading with your children, visit childhood101.com.

