



Sweet Reading Tips

Resource Adapted from Cox Campus



A Storytime Valentine: The Magic of 3 “Think Aloud” Reads!

Books have the power to make a life-changing “impression!”

When you read a favorite story to your little one three times (over a couple of days’ time), you’re giving them a gift that’s better than a box of chocolates.

To make it even more magical, try a “Think-Aloud” Read where you talk out loud about what you’re thinking as you read. It helps your child’s brain “bloom” by showing them how to understand a story.

✨ What is a “Think Aloud”?

A Think Aloud is like opening a window to your heart and mind! It’s when you pause the story to share your inner thoughts, like: “I wonder why he’s doing that?” or “Oh! That word ‘enormous’ must mean something huge!” You’re teaching your child how to be a ‘book detective’ and showing them the ‘key’ to unlocking their imagination!

♥ Read 1: Focus on Events & Excitement

Want to make your child’s brain ‘flutter’? Give that first read-through everything you’ve got! Dive into those big vocabulary words and use your tone to highlight the ‘heart’ of the story. Use expressions, fun voices, and point out the big story problems. Between the fun voices and the ‘think-alouds,’ your child will be ‘smitten’ with reading in no time. You’re doing a ‘heart-y’ job, parent!

♥ Read 2: Focus on Emotions & Vocabulary

On the second trip through the book, it’s time to play ‘matchmaker’ with new words! Use your think-alouds to bridge the gap between a tricky new word and what the character is feeling. If a character is ‘exhausted,’ explain that their heart and body are ready for a long nap. When you pair big words with big emotions and a lively voice, your child will fall ‘head over heels’ for language!

♥ Read 3: The Child Tells the Story

By the third time around, your child is the ‘sweetheart’ of the story! Pass them the microphone and encourage them to tell the story in their own words or read the parts that they can. Ask questions like, “What’s happening here?” to see if they can connect the big events to how the characters are feeling inside. It’s a ‘match made in heaven’ for building their confidence and their heart!

Happy Valentine's Day from us to you and yours! 🌹📖

