

At Home Activities

The Karate Chop

Open a book to a random page and spot a big word (e.g., unfortunate, pessimistic, calculation). Your child has to use their hand like a karate chopper to physically "slice" the word between its syllables or prefixes/suffixes while making a dramatic kung-fu sound. Once chopped, they read each chunk aloud individually before blending the whole word back together. (e.g., un- | for- | tu- | nate).

The Radio DJ

Have your child pretend they are a famous radio DJ broadcasting live to millions of listeners. They must choose a paragraph from a book and read it into an imaginary microphone. To be a good DJ, they can't sound like a robot. They have to pause naturally at commas and periods, and change their tone to match the mood of the sentence.

The Voice Lottery

Before reading a page of a book, call out a silly persona or mood (sleepy sloth, sneaky spy, army general, hyper game-show host). Your child has to read the entire next paragraph in that exact voice.

Echo Reading

Pick a slightly challenging paragraph. You read one sentence first, using great dramatic expression, proper emphasis on keywords, and a steady pace. Your child must immediately "echoes" you, repeating the exact same sentence while trying to perfectly mimic your tone, speed, and inflections.

Goldilocks Reading

Have your child read a single paragraph three times in a row, but you control their speed.

- Read 1 - Super Fast! They must read it like a racecar.
- Read 2 - Super Slow! They must read it like a turtle.
- Read 3 - Just Right. They must read it at a conversational, normal pace.

Pass the Sentence

Read a paragraph together, but alternate word-by-word or phrase-by-phrase without a single pause in the rhythm.

- Adult: "The boy..."
- Child: "...jumped over..."
- Adult: "...the puddle..."
- Child: "...and laughed."

This requires intense tracking. Your child has to read ahead silently to ensure that when it is their turn, they drop their words into the sentence seamlessly without breaking the flow.

Did You Know?

Reading aloud to your child—even after they already know how to read on their own—is one of the best ways to continue to build their vocabulary and comprehension.

