

## Early Literacy Tips (October)

Hello Parents and Guardians:

This month I would like to talk about an easy, fun, and interactive activity you can do with your child. It is one of my favorite activities both at home when my daughter was young and in the classroom. This activity is called “Read Alouds”.

Reading daily with your child can have tremendous benefits in improving literacy. Research in the Science of Reading has pointed to the following reasons to read **to** your child:

1. Reading builds vocabulary- interesting and descriptive words can be discussed as they come up in the story. This word knowledge can then transfer to reading and writing skills.
2. Reading aloud builds comprehension - Students who have heard and talked about stories at home are able to understand foundation skills of predicting, character analysis, types of setting, the problem in the story, and important facts, especially with non-fiction choices.
3. Reading builds fluency - Fluency is the ability to read with smoothness, accuracy, and expression. Your child will see and hear words on the page being read. Reading with expression appropriate to the story taking place teaches children what emotions the character might be feeling. This can be discussed and related to real life.
4. Reading aloud reduces stress in you and them - This special time with your child can be a relaxing way to end the day. Reading with my daughter was part of our bed time routine and we both loved it and looked forward to it.

Students who are read to pick up on early sound and sight practice in the classroom much more readily. In my over 20 years of teaching grade one students, I could easily pick out which children were read to and which were not. Why not visit the public library and pick out some great books with your child this week? Set this routine early on and make your child a lifelong reader!