

Read Aloud**Guidelines****1. Choose a book.**

Select a book from the *Beginning Botanist Read Aloud Books* list. If these books are not available, find another content-related book.

2. Get to know the book.

- Read the story to yourself before reading the book to your class.
- Plan ways to change your voice to fit the plot and characters.
- Gather props.

3. Enjoy reading time!

Make sure everyone is comfortable and able to see the book. If needed, establish rules for good behavior.

When children are read to, they are likely to grow into good readers. As they listen to stories, children hear rich vocabulary and proper language structure, and learn new information about the world. Being read to can enhance imagination, creativity, and curiosity. When selecting a book for a Read Aloud, consider the amount of text and the children's attention span.

1. Before reading the story:

- Show the cover of the book.
- Read the title, the author's name, and the illustrator's name.

2. While reading the story the first time:

- Focus on the flow of the story.
- Read with expression, change your voice for different characters.
- Vary the reading speed: fast for exciting parts, slow for scary or quiet parts.

3. After reading the story:

- Ask a few questions about the book. For example:

Who would you like to be in the story?

When did the story get exciting/scary?

What would you have done?

Why did they do that?

Where did the story happen?

How would you change the ending?

- Have the children re-tell the story or act out their favorite part.

4. For additional readings:

- Invite children to ask questions or discuss the story.
- Encourage children to say words they remember from the story as you read them.
- Assist children in recognizing the sounds that make up words.

5. Leave the book in the science or book area for the children to enjoy.