



READING TO YOUR CHILD

Thorncliffe Park Public School

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Reading for All

Susan Mabey & Sherry Raffalovitch



Why talk **TO** your child

- ▣ Your child learns language when they listen to you talk, read, discuss and ask questions
- ▣ When you talk and read to your child you are teaching them language!
- ▣ Their language helps them to learn to read and write!

Home language and School language

▣ Home Language

- Language other than English
- Busy life = short directions with context clues
- Example: Pick up your toys, brush your teeth and go to bed!



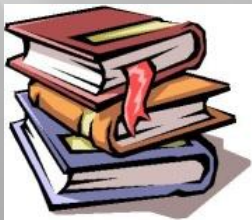
▣ School Language

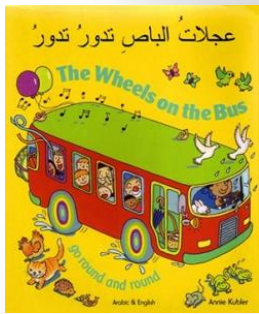
- English
- Complex language
- Academic vocabulary
- Fewer context clues
- Example: Before you put your snack in your backpack, get your book and put it on the carpet



Bridge between Home and School Language

- ▣ The bridge between home and school language is books!
- ▣ Reading to your child helps build vocabulary, oral language skills and thinking skills.
- ▣ It is important to read or talk about books with your child in your home language.
- ▣ If your child develops concepts, vocabulary, ideas, and oral language skills in your home language then they will be more able to develop these skills in English.





First Language Books

- ❑ It is just as important for your child to hear you read in your home language as in English
- ❑ It is easier to learn new words in a second language when you already know those words in your first language
- ❑ Books written in your first language are wonderful ways to expose your child to vocabulary in your first language
- ❑ Dual Language Books, Parent Books, Library Books (Language Lizard, Alien Languages)

Reading TO your Child

- ▣ This means not only reading a book to your child but also talking about the book

- Before
- During
- After reading



- ▣ It is also important for your child to listen to a story read without interruption
- ▣ So...read the same story several times!

How Should I read to My Child?

▣ Talking and Reading

- Have a conversation **before, during** and **after** reading about the book
- Comment on your child's responses to help him or her understand the story and to build knowledge.



BEFORE Reading.....



- ▣ Together with your child make a prediction about the story before you read
 - Look at the cover and ask “What will the story be about?”
 - Ask “Why do you think that?”
 - Look through the book without reading, and talk about the pictures
 - Stop several times and ask “What do you think will happen next?”
- ▣ **THEN** read the story all the way through and talk about your predictions/thoughts



DURING Reading....

In repeated readings...

After you have read a page, ask your child questions about the story

- Remember to ask different questions.

What?

Who?

Where?

When?

Why?

How?

- Have a conversation about what you think too!
- Remember to ask “Why do you think that?”



DURING Reading.....

Talk about unfamiliar words in the book.

- Use simple language when giving definitions.
- Relate it to your child's experience.

Talk about the character emotions.

- Have children look at the characters' facial expressions and tell you how they feel.
- Ask your child to explain why the characters feel that way.



AFTER Reading.....

Talk about what you have read:

- Have your child talk about his or her favorite part and explain why
- Have your child identify the problem in the story and how it was solved
- Talk about a similar experience in your own lives and how it was similar or different from what happened in the story

After Reading

- ▣ Activities for after reading:
 - Act out the story
 - Make stick puppets
 - Draw a favourite part of the story
 - Draw the beginning/middle/end of the story
 - Tell the story to someone else in the family
 - Make up a new ending for the story



How Should I read to My Child?

Re-read the story often.

- ▣ Have your child tell parts of the story with you as you read.
- ▣ Ask more challenging questions.
- ▣ Have your child define the more difficult words.



Questions/Comments

susan.mabey@tdsb.on.ca

sherry.raffalovitch@tdsb.on.ca

