

Features of engaging storytelling and reading aloud



Reading aloud should be a **dialogue** with your audience, not a performance.

- **Make the story the primary focus, not your skills as a reader.**
- **Be aware of your audience's engagement and respond to it.**
- **Include interactivity and choice in reading experiences.**
- **Encourage discussion about the books you are reading.**
- **Remember that children may engage in different ways.**
- **Build on energy and excitement by linking back to the story.**

Share a book or story with a group of children with a focus on the following:

- Aim to make your reading session a **dialogue** with your audience by **checking in** with your listeners regularly, asking for their **opinions** and **comments**, and **involving** them fully with the reading experience.
- Build in an element of **choice** in your story or book **selection**.
- Think about **accessibility** and **engagement**, can you **adapt** provision to **engage** all children? For example, allowing a child to illustrate the story, or encouraging them to act out scenes with toys or puppets.
- Facilitate **discussion** about the story **before, during** and **after** reading.
- Respond to **energy** with **positivity** and direct it back to the story.

Record your reflections on the levels of engagement from your audience.

Did this dialogic reading style feel different? How did listeners respond?