

Reading Aloud Challenges and Solutions : A Resource for Parents

Challenges

- Some children may have **short attention spans**. Encourage a child to sit and listen, but do not force them to do so.
- The **story may be too long** and therefore not stimulating for young children.
- Other activities are more attractive at the moment, or there are **distractions and noises nearby**.
- The **setting is uncomfortable**; i.e. hard floor, room is too cold, or too hot.
- Some children may be less mature than others, or may have **physical limitations** such as being hungry, thirsty, or sleepy.
- Children are being **expected to sit still too long**.



Possible solutions to these issues:

- **Encourage positive participation** for especially restless children, for example: ask them to hold the book, turn the page, answer questions about the story, etc.
- **Use the name of the child** who is having difficulties listening to the story to keep their attention.
- Children will be more involved if they can see the pictures; so, be sure to **show the pictures** throughout the story.
- **If a story isn't working** - stop reading it and switch to a new one; or skip pages to finish it quickly and move on to a new book.
- **Sit on the floor with the children**, so they can experience the closeness made possible through reading aloud together.

*Positive memories about books, create
positive attitudes towards reading!*