



READ ALOUD LIKE AN EXPERT

10
Tips &
Tricks



Get Ready, Get Set...

Is your book age-appropriate? Do you have extra books or related titles? Have you pre-read the book to make sure you are comfortable with the language used?

How's the View?

Make sure kids can see the pictures at all times. Online, try using an extra webcam pointed at the pages. Move in for a close-up when necessary.

Once More, With Feeling

Read with expression! Don't be afraid to use funny voices or sound effects. Consider moving the book to simulate character movement (bird flying, etc).

All Together Now

Ask kids to chime in on the chorus, to predict what will happen, to fill in the rhyme. Ask and answer questions about the story or relate it to your own life. Make up your own story about the book's characters. Use props to tell the story.

Expand the Experience

Many books have discussion/activity guides at the back of the book or online. Check YouTube for read-alouds, book-related songs, or people acting out the story. Make your own video of the story! Compare different versions of folk or fairy tales. Do an activity together inspired by the story: cooking, sewing, gardening, walking, etc. What other fun ideas can you come up with?

No Book? No Problem!

Share some family history or tell a memory story-style ("Once upon a time you and I went to the park..."). Tell a classic story you know, like The 3 Bears, or change the characters or the ending.

Storytime Anywhere, Any Time

Take books wherever you go. Read in line, in waiting rooms, outdoors. Bring adult and kid books and have silent reading time together (good role modeling). Read any time of day, not just bedtime. Read on video chat from the house, the yard, or your car's passenger seat.

Never Stop Reading Aloud

With older kids, teens, and other adult family members, take turns reading to each other and discussing books. Listen to audiobooks together. Remember that there are many sophisticated picture books aimed at older readers. Reading aloud is an act of love for all ages.

It's All Good

Be flexible. There are no Library Police watching you! Feel free to skip pages, change words, not finish a book. Read pictures instead of words. Read anything: magazines, comics, nonfiction, ebooks, webpages, audiobooks, etc.

HAVE FUN!

Have fun reading together to build beautiful memories with your grandkids!