

Why read aloud to children?

Reading aloud:

- develops language skills
- increases vocabulary
- develops comprehension skills
- improves listening comprehension
- develops critical thinking skills
- stimulates the imagination
- increases attention span
- nurtures the child's emotional development
- creates a bond between the reader and the child
- provides a positive reading role model

“The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children.”

National Commission on Reading, 1985



Mission

Share the love and joy of reading aloud.

Goals

- Ensure that every child is read to every day for at least ten minutes.
- Take a leadership role in promoting reading to children by involving various stakeholders.

Support Read To Me International Foundation

Read to Me International is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All monetary gifts are 100% tax deductible and will further the mission of the organization to promote children's literacy.



1833 Kalakaua Avenue, Suite 301
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815

Phone (808) 955-7600
FAX (808) 955-7601

Website: <http://www.readtomeintl.org/>
Email: read@readtomeintl.org



Reading Aloud

A simple
yet profound
activity for
raising
successful
learners



The Challenge:

Hawai'i scores near bottom

Low test scores of public school students have been a perennial problem in the State of Hawai'i. Hawai'i often ranks among the bottom two or three states in the National Assessment of Educational Progress. — *National Assessment of Educational Progress*

Almost half of 4th grade public school students score below basic reading levels (47%). — *National Assessment of Educational Progress, 2005*

Only 17.8% of kindergarten classes reported in 2007 that at least three-fourths of all entering kindergarten children consistently displayed the literacy concepts and skills necessary for success in school life. — *Hawai'i State School Readiness Assessment, 2007*

The Research:

Reading aloud works!

Children who have experienced an abundance of language in the form of talk and read-alouds will have heard 32 million more words by the time they are four than children who haven't had a language-rich environment. — *Drs. Betty Hart and Todd Risley, 1996*

Children's books contain three times more unusual (rare) words than the everyday conversation between parent and child. — *Donald P. Hays and Margaret G. Ahrens, 1988*

The more frequently parents read to their children, the more likely the children are to show emerging literacy skills. — *Nord, C.W., Lennon, J., Liu, B., and Chandler, K. (1999)*

The Solution

“Reading to young children promotes language acquisition and correlates with literacy development and, later on, with achievement in reading comprehension and overall success in school.”

*National Center for Education Statistics
U.S. Department of Education*

Read To Me International Foundation promotes reading aloud to children through:

- Presentations and workshops
- Read alouds
- National-quality biennial conferences
- Community events such as *Run and Read for Literacy* and *Children and Youth Day*
- Prison Literacy Projects, Hawai'i
- Fathers Bridging the Miles, a read aloud and parenting program for Hawai'i inmates at Saguaro Correctional Center, Arizona
- Website: www.readtomeintl.org

Here's what people are saying

“Honestly, I thought all hope was lost and that my son and I would be complete strangers. Now, [my son] has his own little library of children's books along with CDs. Every time he's in the car he shouts, 'I want daddy's books!'”

participant, Father Bridging the Miles prison literacy project

“The conference was excellent! It was truly an inspiration for me as an educator and a grandmother and a reader.”

participant, 2007 conference

“You did a great job with our middle school students. They didn't realize that they still love to be read to. I'm going to start doing that in my class now — read alouds.”

teacher, Moanalua Middle School

