

Parental information:
The importance of reading to a child

If you read aloud your child will...

1. grow up to be **more confident** and social in a group setting
2. gain a considerably **wider vocabulary**
3. **be more successful at school**
4. get a **better start at life**
5. **be more talkative** at home
6. grow up to be a **more active and curious** as adult
7. **read more as adult as well**

Reading aloud is the best investment into child's future.

According to latest studies, only 25% of Finnish parents read to their children frequently. However, the foundation for the competence and enthusiasm for reading is created early in the childhood. Parents' impact on their child's literacy is most crucial before the child can read by themselves.

The number of books at home, daily story times and regular visits to the library have a great influence in a child's reading habits. Studies show that by the age of three children in families that read have heard 20 million words more than children in families that don't read.

If a child has a good grasp of letters and knowledge of a few words by the time they enter school, the level of their reading competence stays high later in life as well. Reading aloud is more critical to a child's success later in life than the socio-economic background of their parents.

According to studies, a child who is regularly read to is more impartial and has better social skills. An adult who is active and curious has been read to as a child more than usually. Thanks to a childhood reading habit, an adult has an easier time expressing their opinion and reaching their goals.



A book is suitable for all ages

A newborn is a vigilant listener

Familiar voices of family members with their altering rhythms and tempos feed a child's sense of language. A rich native tongue is the best possible gift for an infant.

6-month-old gets interested in a book as a plaything

A child smells, tastes and plays with a book. The plain characters and bright colors of a board book are fascinating.

1-year-old loves daily story times

Rhythmic rhymes and poems support a child's speech development. A brief story time or a lullaby calms a child before bedtime.

2–3-year-old catches new words

Story times become interactive when the adult asks a child what is happening in the pictures of the book. Once a child's ability to focus has improved it's time to move from board books to picture books.

4–5-year-old starts learning the ABCs of life from stories

Stories allow a child to safely feel fear and to empathize with various emotions. Rhymes and poems encourage a child to play with language on their own.

6-year-old already flies on the wings of imagination

A child now has the patience for even a longer story. Discussions on what has been read are gratifying for the adult as well.

7-year-old is taking charge of books and letters

A child becomes interested in letters and already wants to read by themselves. Learning to read is a milestone worthy of celebration. Story times between the adult and a child still remain important to the child for a long time.

