



The Testing &
Tutoring Service

TLC

The Treatment and Learning Centers

Reading With Your Child

Recent research on Reading Fluency has found that having a child read aloud daily is an important way help a child improve fluency—a necessary skill for comprehension. We have found in tutoring that collaborative reading is a good way to practice this oral reading, and it is an important way that parents can help a student at any level.

Collaborative reading is simply alternating, or taking turns, reading. First, choose a book or article at the child's reading/decoding level. In other words, a book in which he can read most of the words independently. Then take turns reading sentences, paragraphs, or pages, depending on the length and difficulty of the reading material. We have used this in tutoring with students of all ages—from beginning readers through high school. For students who have difficulty with reading, it is a way to make the task seem less overwhelming.

In addition to giving your child reading practice, this collaborative reading has several advantages. If you are alternating sentences, he will begin to be more aware of periods—or end punctuation; if you are alternating paragraphs, he will begin to notice the indentations that signal a new paragraph. When you are reading, you can model phrasing and expression to help your child learn those important skills. You can also model reading strategies such as pausing to figure out a word or rereading to clarify a sentence. This method also gives your child a chance to practice listening comprehension as he listens to you read—and must focus so that he knows when it is his turn again.

For the parent, this collaborative reading is a good way to really listen to your child's reading, to notice specific areas of difficulty that you can discuss with his teacher or tutor—and to notice areas of improvement that you can praise him on with great enthusiasm. Plus, it is a great bonding time with your child!

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