

Dialogic Reading Techniques

We highly recommend that all Reading Volunteers use Dialogic Reading techniques when reading aloud to children.

Dialogic Reading Techniques have been shown to be very effective in helping children improve language skills that better prepare them for reading on their own.

Below is an outline of Dialogic Reading Techniques for young children (ages 4-5), works with older children also.

Adult Role in Adult-Child Interaction during Reading:

PEER

Prompt the child to respond to the book (i.e. "What animal is on this page?")

Evaluate the child's response, gently if they're wrong (i.e. "It looks like a horse, but we call that a cow.)"

Expand the child's response by repeating and adding information. (i.e. "Yes, it is a cow. A cow with black and white spots.")

Repeat – encourage child to repeat the expanded utterance

Types of questions to ask children:

CROWD

Completion prompts – fill-in-the-blank (i.e. "Something went bump, and that made us _____.")

Recall prompts – asking children to remember something from earlier in the book

Open-ended prompts – encourage children to respond in their own words (i.e. "Tell me about this page.")

Wh prompts – who, where, why, when, what, how

Distancing Prompts – ask children to relate aspects of book to their lives (i.e. "Raise your hand if you've ever played in the snow like Peter did. Do you like the snow?")

Source: Read Together, Talk Together by Whitehurst