



## **How To Read Aloud To A Classroom Of Children**

1. Choose a story that you like and are comfortable with. Children can tell when you are having fun reading a story.
2. Choose a book that is large enough in size to share with a group. Smaller sized books are appropriate to share one-on-one with a child, but not with a larger group. Your local public librarian can be a great source for book suggestions.
3. Choose a book that has large, bright and colorful illustrations that complement and relate to the story.
4. Read the story silently to yourself several times before reading it out loud to a group of children. Practice reading it out loud to yourself first. Look for spots in the story where you can ask kids to join you. (i.e. Perhaps the story has a repetitive refrain that the children could join you in saying).
5. Hold the book out to the side as you read it, and slowly move the illustrations across in front of the kids.
6. Don't rush through the reading experience. Rather invite the kids to comment on the story and its illustrations as you read it.
7. Vary your voice volume and tone throughout the story. Use character voices if you are comfortable doing so.
8. Use fingerplays and rhymes to break up the storytelling experience into smaller segments.
9. Visit your local library and watch a story hour in order to get ideas for your own storytime programs. Or invite the librarian to your Head Start Center to do a storytime.
10. Choose a time to do storytime when the children are relaxed and ready to listen. (i.e. Right before naptime is a great time for storytime).

### **Sources:**

*"A Library Head Start to Literacy: The Resource Notebook for the Library-Museum-Head Start Partnership" By Virginia H. Mathews and Susan Roman. Published by the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress, 1999.*