

STUDY SKILLS-Part 2: Reading Aloud

There is one way that all parents can help their student improve his/her academic skills. That is that all parents can have their student read out loud to them. The student can read a book, an article, or other homework assignment to the parent. Have your student read to you beginning at 15 minutes a day and increase it to 30.

Advantages of reading aloud:

- Builds confidence and self-esteem
- Builds listening skills
- Builds the ability to visualize and imagine
- Builds attention span
- Helps with understanding of how words are put together
- Helps with critical thinking
- Strengthens language skills
- Inculcates a love of reading
- Improves knowledge
- Builds vocabulary
- Inculcates public-speaking qualities
- Helps with voice modulation
- As you can see, encouraging your student to read even just a small section aloud to you, can make a world of difference. Start now!

Additional advantages when a student reads a draft of writing out loud:

1. Read Aloud to Revise Your Own Prose

Reading a draft aloud may enable us to hear problems (of tone, emphasis, syntax) that our eyes alone might not detect. The trouble may lie in a sentence that gets twisted on our tongue or in a single word that rings a false note. Either it sounds right or it doesn't sound right. So if we find ourselves stumbling over a passage, it's likely that our readers will be similarly distracted or confused. Then it is time to recast the sentence or seek a more appropriate word.

2. Read Aloud to Savor the Prose of the Masters

Some experts advocate reading good prose out loud as "a daily practice" to counter the "bureaucratic, unvoiced, asocial official style" that anesthetizes so many of us in the workplace. The distinctive voices of great writers invite us to listen as well as to read. When a young writer asks for advice on how to develop his/her own distinctive voice, it is usually best to keep reading, keep writing, and keep listening. To do all three effectively, it helps to read out loud.