Click Here For Full Version

Dedication

To my mom and dad, for filling our house with books and raising four rock-star readers; to my husband, Brent, my inspiring, tireless supporter; and to Maddy, Owen, and Cora, the three coolest kids on the planet and the only reason teachmama.com exists. –Amy Mascott

To my husband Jason, without whom all the best things wouldn’t be possible, to all my students who have taught me new ways to reach understanding, and most importantly, to my two children who inspire me to be a better teacher and mom every day. –Allison McDonald


Scholastic Inc. grants teachers permission to photocopy the reproducible pages from this book for classroom use. Purchase of this book entitles use of reproducibles by one teacher for one classroom only. No other part of this publication may be
Contents

About the Authors
Introduction
Chapter 1: A House of Books
Chapter 2: Talk to Me, Kid
Chapter 3: It's All About the Book
Chapter 4: Sound Check: Playing With Sounds
Chapter 5: Learn. Those. Letters!

Chapter 6: S-s-s-sounding It All Out

Chapter 7: Look Who’s Learning to Read!

Chapter 8: Let’s Put Some Writing on That Wall (or paper, at least)

Chapter 9: Reading and Talking and Thinking—Oh, My!

Chapter 10: Time to Get Techy

About the Authors

Amy Mascott, M.A., Reading; B.A., English Education

Founder and editor of Teach Mama

Amy Mascott is the creator of teachmama.com, where since 2008, she has shared tools and resources parents can use to become the best teachers they can be for their children. A reading specialist, writer, and literacy consultant, Amy’s work has been featured in dozens of online and print publications, including Scholastic Parents, PBS Parents, PBS Digital Studios, readwritethink.org, and more. A former high school English teacher, Amy has expanded the walls of her classroom to share her expertise at local and national conferences and events. Married to an elementary school principal, Amy resides in the DC Metro area with her three crazy-cool kids, a dog, two birds, and four fish.

Allison McDonald, B.A., History; B.Ed., Elementary Education

Founder and editor of No Time For Flash Cards
Allison McDonald is a preschool teacher and the mom behind the popular early education website notimeforflashcards.com. Reading, especially helping to lay the groundwork for learning to read, has been a passion of Allison’s for many years. While studying elementary education at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario, she worked as a reading tutor and volunteered with Pioneer College as a buddy reader for underprivileged children. Once she started her teaching career, she fell even more in love with getting children excited about learning to read through hands-on activities. When she paused her teaching career to start her own family, she started the website No Time For Flash Cards and over the next many years, filled it with hands-on activities to help parents and teachers. Allison began writing the Raise a Reader blog on Scholastic Parents in 2012. Now that she is back in a classroom, she is eager to have a chance to help even more children fall in love with books.

INTRODUCTION

*Reading is our thing.* But we totally get that it might not be yours.

You are your child’s first—and most important!—teacher.

So because we *love* reading, and because we are continually amazed, in awe, and humbled by the process of reading acquisition—how kids learn to read and become better readers—we want to help you.

With just a few minutes a day, a few times a day, no matter where you are, as a parent, you can help your child become a strong reader—even if you don’t consider yourself one. We want to help you because we know we can. More importantly, we know you can. It’s easier than you think. It’s possible. Trust us.
The crazy thing is that even before children are able to read texts on their own, they can develop a lot of skills that will build a strong foundation for literacy—just by being read aloud to by an adult.

So whether it’s you, or Grandpa, or even the babysitter doing the reading, a read-aloud can help your child:

We’ve got plenty of tips outlining simple things you can do to get the most out of reading aloud to your child.

* Learn how to handle a book (Finding the front cover and turning the pages from right to left doesn’t come naturally!)
* Become aware of letters, words, and sounds
* Build vocabulary
* Follow the flow of a story
* Develop his or her attention span
* And so much more!

In addition to reading aloud, we’ll share other everyday activities you can do to help your child build the foundation for one of the most important skills he or she will ever have: reading.

Reading is tough. It’s an active process, which means that while you’re reading, you’re working. And you are working hard. You might not realize it, but reading takes a lot of energy:

* Your brain is busy decoding, or figuring out how to pronounce the words that the groups of letters on the page create.
* You’re pulling together what you know about the sounds the letters make when they’re together and what the word they create means.
* You’re merging that word together with what the words around it mean so that you can make sense of the phrase, sentence, and paragraph.
* You’re also crazy busy thinking. You’re making connections between what you know and what the story or text is telling you.
* You’re asking questions in your mind about plot, characters, and setting.
* You’re making predictions, guesses about what may or may not happen.

* You’re synthesizing and inferring—trying to bring together all that you know about a subject and combining it with what you’re reading. Then you’re creating new meaning based on that information.

* You’re building your fluency, which is reading in a way that sounds natural, like talking.

Really, reading is no cakewalk—but we can help you make learning to read more of a treat for your child.

All the while? You’re trying to enjoy it. Find pleasure in it. Relax with it and have fun with it, so that you are carried away, even for a short while, to places as far off and mysterious as Willy Wonka’s Chocolate Factory or as familiar as Ramona’s living room.

For years now, we’ve poured everything we have into writing our blogs, sharing ways that parents can take a more active role in their kids’ early learning. And for years we’ve co-written Scholastic Parents: Raise a Reader blog, sharing everything parents need to know about—wait for it—raising kids who read!

We’ve finally decided to answer a ton of requests from friends, family, and community members and put our ideas together in a quick and easy read. Something you can take with you just about anywhere—the park, backyard, playroom, waiting
room, car, metro—anywhere. Something you can pull out whenever you want to fill five minutes here or there with an activity that really counts.

End of this sample Kindle book.
Enjoyed the preview?

Click Here For Full Version