



FAMILY READING TIME

The American Academy of Pediatrics released the following policy statement on Tuesday (6-24-14):

“Parents should read aloud to their children every day starting in infancy. Doing so can enhance child development and prepare young minds for early language and reading ability. “

Summer is a great time to read a few chapter books to your children. Reading a chapter book as a family creates a memorable experience while building children’s sense of story, listening comprehension skills, stamina, ability to visualize, and positive attitudes about reading. Here are just a few suggestions. See your local librarian for suggestions too! Happy Reading!

1. THREE TALES OF MY FATHER’S DRAGON (Gannett) - a good starter series of comical books that start with a boy rescuing a baby dragon in a faraway land
2. ALFIE AND ANNIE ROSE (Hughes) – delightful stories about a pre-K boy and his toddler sister (another perfect starter book, especially for siblings)
3. FANTASTIC MR. FOX (Dahl) – a cunning tale of a fox trying to steer clear of 3 poultry farmers
4. MRS. PIGGLE-WIGGLE (MacDonald) – a lively woman with a mysterious past and living in an upside down home filled with the aroma of cookies “cures” the common “ailments” of children
5. IVY AND BEAN (Barrows) – a funny and vibrant series of books about two friends with nothing in common
6. A TOAD FOR TUESDAY (Erickson) – instead of hibernating for the winter, Warton (a toad) goes outdoors and is instantly picked up by a lonely and hungry owl, who is later captivated by the toad’s kindness and conversation
7. TWO TIMES THE FUN (Cleary) – a 4-book series about pre-K aged twins, Janet and Jimmy
8. CATWINGS (Le Guin) – good for younger audiences, this is a series about 4 kittens born with wings
9. MERCY WATSON TO THE RESCUE (Dicamillo) – a series of books about a pig named Mercy Watson
10. CHALK BOX KID (Bulla) – a boy troubled by recent events in his life finds comfort in his extraordinary talent when he draws himself a chalk garden
11. THE STORIES JULIAN TELLS (Cameron) – Julian and his brother get into a heap of trouble at the “stories” he tells
12. PIPPI LONGSTOCKING (Lindgren) the amazing and funny adventures of a charming, precocious and optimistic parent-less red-haired girl
13. WINNIE THE POOH (Milne) – the timeless, beloved tales of Christopher Robin, everyone’s favorite silly honey-loving bear and his friends in the Hundred Acre Wood

14. MARTIN BRIDGE: READY FOR TAKEOFF (Kerrin) – a simple collection of short stories about the daily trials, triumphs and imagination of an eight year old boy
15. RAMONA THE PEST (Cleary) – a series of books that starts when spunky and curious Ramona Quimby was in Kindergarten
16. CHARLOTTE’S WEB (White) – the classic, well-known story of the unlikely friendship between a pig and spider
17. ANDREW LOST (Greenburg) - an adventure series filled with science knowledge
18. FLAT STANLEY (Brown) – a series of adventures about a boy turned flat
19. EMMALINE AND THE BUNNY (Hannigan) – a delightful story about a misfit who changed her “tidy” and boring town
20. FROG AND TOAD ARE FRIENDS (Lobel) – amusing and simplistic stories of an endearing friendship between a frog and a toad
21. RALPH MOUSE (Cleary) – a series about a hotel-dwelling mouse with big dreams
22. MAGIC TREE HOUSE (Osborne) – Time Travel series filled with great adventures of two siblings
23. HENRY HUGGINS (Cleary) – a series of adventures about a boy named Henry (if you like the Ramona series, you’ll like these)
24. MR. POPPER’S PENGUINS (Atwater) – a polar-dreaming house painter’s adventures with his penguins
25. TOYS GO OUT (Jenkins) – the life and adventures of 3 toys when no one is watching
26. OGGIE COODER (Weeks) - an energetic misfit with a unique talent
27. THE BORROWERS (Norton) – a classic tale of “little people” who like to “borrow” and re-use common household items from humans
28. THE HOBOKEN CHICKEN EMERGENCY (Pinkwater) – absurdly hilarious escapades of an abnormally large chicken on the loose in Hoboken, NJ
29. OWL AT HOME (Lobel) – a compilation of dramatic tales about a friendly owl
30. FIVE CHILDREN AND IT (Nesbit) – the discovery of a magical Sand Creature leads 5 children to unexpected turn of events as their daily wish is granted
31. THE DRAGON OF DOOM (Coville) – comical, adventuresome and page-turning book about a boy that helps out a severely untalented magician and his talking toad
32. CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY (Dahl) – the “sticky” adventures of honest Charlie and the other 4 children allowed to enter the gates of Willy Wonka’s famous factory
33. ABEL’S ISLAND (Steig) – forced to be resourceful, a society mouse is castaway on an island far from the life he knew
34. BUSYBODY NORA (Hurwitz) – a series of adventures about a very young girl living in a NYC apartment building
35. YOU READ TO ME AND I’LL READ TO YOU: STORIES TO SHARE FROM THE 20TH CENTURY (compiled by Schulman) – a hefty collection of short chapter books (many of which are already included in this list)

Happy Reading!