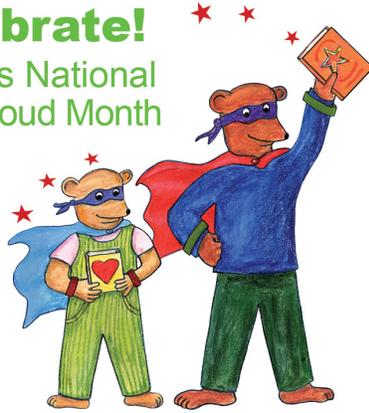




Family Reading
Partnership
www.familyreading.org

Find read-aloud tips, book
suggestions, and activities
at www.familyreading.org.

Celebrate!
March is National
Read-Aloud Month



Join the
BOOKS
are my
**SUPER
POWER**
Read-Aloud Challenge

Dear Teacher,

March is officially National Read-Aloud Month, but please celebrate reading aloud any month that works for you. Make a personal challenge to read aloud to your students every day and encourage parents/caregivers to do the same. Start a read-aloud routine that will continue all year!

As you know, reading aloud to children has long-lasting benefits. It builds vocabulary, comprehension, and phonological awareness. Each of these skills is a prerequisite for later success in reading, but of even greater importance is that frequent, pleasurable read-aloud invites children to fall in love with the joy and power of books!

The theme of **Books are my Super Power** is meant to stretch far beyond the power of super heroes, to all of the ways that books can empower young children to be thinkers and doers.

Children's books are full of strong characters, engaging in powerful things like:

- Kindness and generosity
- Friendship
- Self-confidence
- Determination and persistence
- Creativity

Books provide the ideal way for children to imagine themselves in the character's situation, to think about what they might do, and to "practice" or plan ahead for being kind, generous, or brave when the opportunity arises. These behaviors really are **SUPER POWERS** for children.

The book lists and resources we've included in this Tool Kit, invite you to harness and explore these special powers with children through the joy of shared reading, conversations, and activities.

As a class or as a family, join the challenge and make reading with children a treasured part of your shared daily routine.

Take the pledge and together we will invite every child to believe in the magic words:

Books are my Super Power!

Family Reading Partnership

Engage Families

Reading aloud is a proven way for families to help their children develop the “super powers” they need to love books, become readers, and enjoy success in school and in life!

Explore the Tool Kit of resources online at www.familyreading.org/rac-tool-kit that includes activities for kids and families and recommended books for read-aloud.

Here are some ideas to do at school and at home during Read-Aloud Month:

- Send home the Super Power Kids’ Activity page or do this activity at school for kids to take home. Children can decorate and cut out a Mask and Cuffs to become a Read-Aloud Super Hero! Take a picture of the class!
- Print out the Kids’ Read-Aloud Pledge for each student. Children can decorate, fold into a little booklet, and share with their families.
- Expand your classroom library by having a book drive in the community to collect donations of gently used children’s books or have a book swap at school so children can take books home to borrow or to keep.
- Check out the Books are my Super Power book lists and read books to the class about the power of kindness, generosity, creativity, determination, and friendship. Share lists with families and encourage them to find those books in the school or public library. Do some of the many activities included at the end of the book lists.
- Pick a longer book to read to the class and read a chapter each day.
- Bring the characters of a book to life by making small puppets with photocopied images from the book glued on popsicle sticks or cut out shapes of story elements for children to retell the story on a felt board.

Send home suggestions for families to do at home in your classroom newsletter:

- Tell a story at supper. Try telling the story of “The Three Bears,” or make up a new story.
- Try reading in different places in your home. Where is your favorite spot to read together?
- Start a book paper chain to record how many books you read to your child this month. (Find paper chain pattern at www.familyreading.org/rac-tool-kit.)
- When you read a book today, ask your child to guess what happens next.
- Read a book at breakfast, or with a flashlight in a dark room at night, or in your empty bathtub!
- Turn off all electronics at home for a set time period and read!
- Who is your child’s favorite children’s book author or illustrator? Look that person up online. Find out if he or she has a website. Write a letter or email to the author or illustrator.
- Gather some books in a tote bag or backpack to take in the car or bus, when going on errands or a trip for your child to look at on their own. If there is time when you are waiting together, you can read a book aloud. It will make your waiting time go by quickly!
- Write and illustrate your own book by taking paper and folding over into a booklet. If your child isn’t writing yet, you can write the words that he or she dictates to you.
- Suggest that your child read or look at the pictures in a book with a friend or sibling.
- Tell a “once upon a time...” story starring your child. Have your child tell one about you. Use imagination!
- Play with words. Put together silly combinations of words, like “striped giraffe” or “balloon tree” or “running mountain” or play a rhyming game. One person says a word and the other person says a rhyming word that could be a made-up nonsense word—as long as it rhymes!
- Encourage your child to “read” to a pet or stuffed animal. Your child can tell the story using the pictures.
- Read some cookbooks aloud for a whole new reading aloud experience.
- Make sure everyone in your family has a library card. Make a plan to visit your library regularly.