Read Aloud
15 MINUTES

COACHES: TRAIN A ROOKIE READER IN JUST 15 MINUTES A DAY

No matter their team, every football player on the "Big Game" field can agree:

- The more you train, the better you get.
- Practice makes progress.

The same is true for reading aloud.



GET IN THE RE(A)D ZONE!

The more you read aloud – PRACTICE! TRAIN! – the better prepared your child will be for reading and learning.

Hey, coach!
That's you. Your child was born learning, and *you* are your child's first and most important teacher.

Come on! 15 more!
Yes, it takes a lot of reps to build a muscle. The same is true of reading aloud! That is why parents should read aloud every day, for at least 15 minutes, starting from birth.

TOUCHDOWN

The Playing Field

Get in good field position. Some kindergarteners will have been read aloud to as many as **1,000 hours**; others, only **25 hours**.

Don't find yourself at third and long. The more words your kindergartener knows, the better he or she will do in school. And the word gap is huge: Some children will have heard **30 million** more words than others.

Ensure forward progress. A child who does not read well by third grade is four times more likely to drop out of school than a good reader.

TOUCHDOWN

RESULTS FOLLOW THIS TRAINING ROUTINE, AND GUARANTEE POINTS ON THAT SCOREBOARD.

READING ALOUD EVERY DAY FOR 15 MINUTES...

Builds literacy skills.

Vocabulary. Phonics. Storytelling. Understanding. Reading aloud strengthens literacy skills.



Grows your child's vocabulary.

Reading aloud can introduce many new words and ideas.

Builds brains.

Birth to age 5 are important years for developing language skills.

Enhances knowledge.

Books are for fun – and for facts. You and your child can learn something new when you read aloud.



Fosters a love of reading.

Parents who read aloud help sell reading! The more books you have, the more your children will read, and the better they will get at it.

A GAME PLAN FOR SUCCESS

Every football coach has a strategy – so can you, coach!

1. **Rush!** Give those 15 minutes of reading aloud all you got! Enthusiasm is contagious, make sure your child catches it.

2. **Snap!** Read with expression. Go ahead... Use voices. Do sound effects. Make a fool of yourself... your child will love it.

3. **Pass!** Let your child turn the pages, if he or she can. Over time, your child will learn which end of the book is up, that the letters are the things you are reading, that text flows from left to right...

4. **Huddle.** Point to the pictures, and talk about them. Make them relatable: "Hey! That looks just like your toy train."

5. **Deploy special teams.** Find books that have awesome pictures, rhyming, and word play. Short, simple board books are great for babies. In fact, some of the best books have hardly any words at all.

6. **Blitz!** Books, books everywhere and lots of stuff to read. Nurture a reader: Make books an accessible part of your child's environment.