



## Think Aloud\*

A “think-aloud” is a *simple yet powerful* activity you can do while reading a book to a child. It is just stopping occasionally to tell thoughts and feelings about what you read, or to ask about the child’s reactions. It is good for children to hear adults do this because it shows them that talking about stories *helps to understand* them, and that it is *fun to interact* with a book. But don’t stop so often that it destroys the flow of the story!

Here are some ways to do this:

- 1) When you are reading a story aloud and come to a part that reminds you *of an experience*, stop and briefly share about it. Make a connection between what happened to you and what happened in the book. **OR**
- 2) When you are reading a story and come to a part that *puzzles* you, stop and ask questions like, “I wonder why that character just did that?” or “Wow, I’d better read it again. It doesn’t make sense to me!” or “What do you think that’s about?” **OR**
- 3) When you notice a story reminds you of *another book*, stop and say something such as, “Oh, this is like another story we read. Here’s another character who wants to have a big adventure! I sure wonder whether he’s going to get caught in a bind somewhere.”

Before you go back to reading aloud, see if your child wants to say something. *Listen and encourage* your child to talk about what you have read together.

When grown-ups share their thought and reactions to a story, *children learn to do that*, too. It is a good way to encourage understanding.

When you finish reading a book together, list it in the **Reading Together** section of your *WAY TO GO! Family Learning Journal™*.



“It gives kids confidence to talk about what we’re reading together. I know they get satisfaction from understanding the story and recounting what’s happening. And I love it when their comments are fresh and a bit different from mine!”

— *Grandma Anna*

\**Think Aloud* supports the English-Language Arts Content Standards related to reading comprehension and listening and speaking comprehension.

