

# Importance of READING FOR CHILDREN

**I've traveled the world twice over,  
Met the famous; saints & sinners,  
Poets and artists, kings & queens,  
Old stars & hopeful beginners,  
I've been where no-one's been before,  
Learned secrets from writers & cooks  
All with one library ticket  
To the wonderful world of books.**

**-Anonymous**

**T**he above poem aptly illustrates the emotions that are involved in reading books. Reading is a pleasurable activity that entails discovery at every step and satisfies an individual's natural curiosity. Reading to children helps in instilling the habit from a young age which becomes a part of them for the rest of their lives. Reading is an enchanting exercise that does not only promote the creative potential of the child and boosts his imagination but also supports other skills such as language development. It is imperative at this point to look into the effects that reading has on the cognitive, physical and social development of the child.

Psychologists are unanimously of the opinion that children develop an emotional bond with parents or teachers who read to the child. This is important for healthy social functioning when they are older. Reading is also considered to enhance the ability of children to express themselves well. Research has shown that those children who read are able to express themselves confidently in both the written and the spoken word. Other than this, reading also has a significant impact on the communication skills of the child as he/she is able to listen better. It is also responsible for increasing his attention span and develops the ability for him to concentrate at length, all of which are integral towards effective communication.

Interestingly, reading has also been demarcated as an important agent towards a child's physical development. Holding the book in his hand, turning the pages, tunes his fine motor skills. It has been said to stimulate the eye muscles as the child views the pictures and reads the text. Many books today are very interactive and have sound producing mechanisms along with the story that goes on with it. This is also helpful in stimulating the sense of sound besides

enhancing the sense of sight and touch. However the greatest effect that reading has is on the intellectual development of the child. Loud reading to the child gives him the ability to understand phonetics and this in turn affects their language and cognitive abilities. Reading has also proven to be beneficial towards the academic success of the child. Besides having more knowledge related to the specific field and contributing positively towards the cognitive development of the child, reading picture books also exposes the child to different colors, illustrations and styles which also boosts his aesthetic skills and makes him appreciative of the arts.

Reading with children from a young age helps them become readers. Reading with them builds the vocabulary of the child, teaches him sentence structure and tells him about the world around him. They begin to comprehend that stories have a given structure and learn to understand the connections with the spoken and the written word. The greater the number of stories that children are exposed to the more diverse the vocabulary base he builds. Reading is therefore an important activity that contributes to the child's development in more than one way. Taking out the time to interact with the child through reading boosts his overall development and education.

**Source:**

[www.richmond.k12.va.us.com](http://www.richmond.k12.va.us.com)  
[www.littleonesreadingresource.com](http://www.littleonesreadingresource.com)  
[www.co.essortment.com](http://www.co.essortment.com)