

# 10 Benefits That Highlight the Importance of Reading with Young Children

Posted by: Chontelle Bonfiglio

Bilingualkidspot.com

October 19, 2017



We all know that reading to your children is important. But did you know that toddlers and preschoolers who are read to every day have many advantages and benefits over those whose parents do not read to them. Not only does reading enhance a child's vocabulary and helps them understand how to read and write but reading aloud also helps him/her understand different topics about the world and everyday life. The importance of reading cannot be emphasized enough in young children and we as parents need to make reading a priority.

**Below are some benefits and advantages that highlight the importance of reading.**

## **1. Reading to young children sets them up to succeed.**

The more you read to your children the more knowledge they absorb, and knowledge is important in all aspects of life. There have been many studies conducted that show that reading to babies and toddlers gives them a head start and helps to prepare them for formal instruction in school. After all, reading with your children gives them the pre-reading skills needed for when they start reading themselves; skills such as learning to follow words across the page from left to right and to turn pages at the end of text. They may also begin to recognize some basic sight words due to repeated exposure to text. Children who enjoy reading not only do better with language acquisition and literacy, but in all other academic subjects as well.

## **2. Reading develops language skills.**

While you may speak with your children every day, the vocabulary you use is often limited and repetitive. Reading books aloud ensures that your child is exposed to vocabulary on different topics, meaning they hear words or phrases that they may not hear otherwise in their day-to-day lives. The more words they know, the better. For children who speak more than one language, reading is an easy way to help improve their language skills and fluency.

### **3. Exposure to reading exercises your child's brain.**

Reading to young children affects their brain activity and gives them the boost they need to support and promote early reading skills. Research shows that specific areas of the brain are affected when young children have been exposed to reading from an early age. These areas are critical for a child's language development.

### **4. Reading enhances a child's concentration.**

While you may think it is useless reading to a toddler who wants to constantly turn pages, swap books, or throw them around altogether, reading with your little one is extremely important at this age. By consistently reading to your child every day, your child will learn to concentrate and sit still for longer periods of time, both of which will help later when they attend school.

### **5. Reading together encourages a thirst for knowledge.**

Reading to your children leads to questions about the book and the information contained within. It gives you a chance to speak about what is happening in the story and use this as a learning experience. It may also develop an interest in different cultures or languages. There is nothing more exciting than seeing a child who loves to learn new information.

### **6. A range of books teaches children about different topics.**

Providing your child with books on different topics, or even in different languages for bilingual kids, exposes them to a wide range of information. There are numerous non-fiction books on topics such as animals, places, machinery, inventions, etc. There are also a variety of books to help teach children about important life skills such as sharing, being kind, and diversity.

### **7. Reading develops a child's imagination and creativity.**

One of the greatest benefits of reading with children, is watching their imaginations grow. When children engage with a book, they begin to imagine what the characters are doing and visualize where the story takes place. Seeing this excitement in a child's eyes when they think they know what is going to happen on the next page or having them predict what is going to happen next is one of the most amazing things to experience.

### **8. Reading books with children helps to develop empathy.**

When a child puts himself into the story, it helps him develop empathy. He/she begins to identify with a character and feels what that character is feeling. This life-skill helps children understand and relate to emotions.

### **9. Books are a form of entertainment.**

With so much technology these days, it is difficult not to get caught up in the hype of it all. TV, video games, smart phones and apps are popular among children. However, reading a good book that your child is interested in can be just as entertaining. With all the negative effects of screen time, choosing a book that interests your child, and either reading it together, or letting him/her flick through pages

alone, is a much better option. One of the main benefits of the importance of reading with babies and toddlers, is that they are more likely to choose a book to read for pleasure over another activity when they are bored.

## **10. Reading together helps to create a bond.**

There is nothing better than cuddling up with your little one and reading a book or bedtime story together. Spending time with one another, reading and talking, can bring parents closer to their child. For parents who work, or have a busy lifestyle, relaxing with your child and simply enjoying each other's company while reading is a great way for you both to unwind, relax, and bond.

With so many benefits that highlight the importance of reading, we as parents need to prioritize reading in a child's early years to help them succeed later in life.