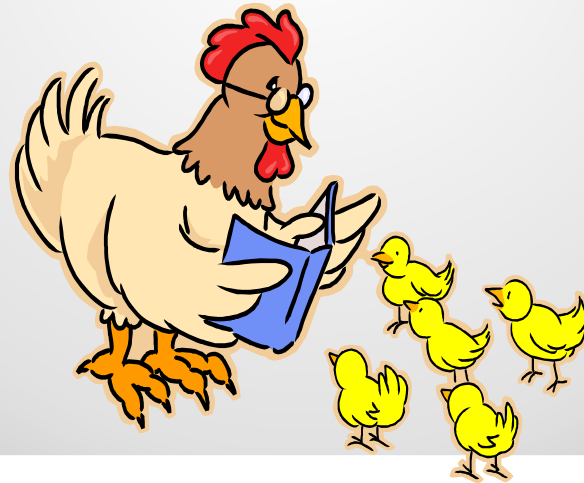


# The Truly Awesome Power of Read Alouds

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- What is the power of reading aloud?
- Are you truly exploring all of the potential read alouds have to offer children?



- A joint statement from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the International Reading Association (IRA):

***“The single most important activity for building the understanding and skills essential for reading success appears to be reading aloud to children.”***



- **What is a true, best practice read aloud?**

- A read aloud is used to engage a listener while developing reading enjoyment, building background knowledge, increasing comprehension skills, and fostering critical thinking. A read aloud can be used to model the use of reading strategies.

- **From: The Center for Improvement of Early Reading Achievement (CIERA)**

- \*It can also just be for fun and enjoyment!

## • **Benefits of Read Alouds:**

- Children have opportunities to experience empathy and compassion – the cornerstones of kind citizens.
- Reader and children develop a positive relationship.
- Children experience the joy of literature – leading to a lifelong commitment to literacy.

- **More benefits of read alouds:**

- Children share the excitement, fun, and beauty of our language and world.
- Children develop strong oral language and vocabulary skills – the foundations of learning to read and write. More to come...
- Children gain information and understandings about the world.

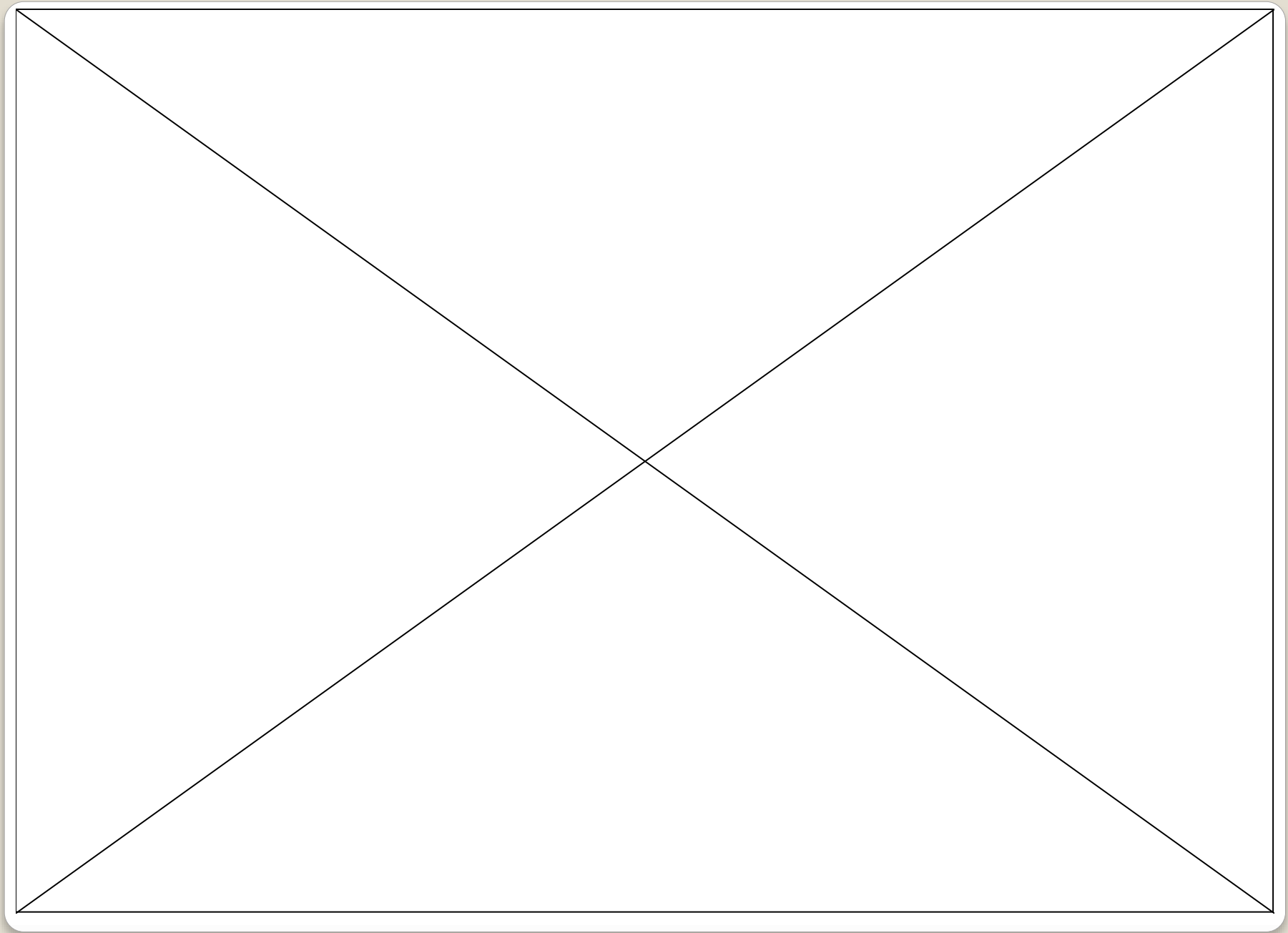


- **And still more benefits of read alouds:**

- Children's personal interests and talents can be discovered and fostered through exposure to a wide variety of subjects and ideas.
- Early literacy skills are inherent in read alouds, such as:
  - Language structures
  - Left to right directionality
  - One to one word matching
  - Sound/symbol correspondence
  - Phonological/Phonemic Awareness
  - Picture cues
  - Book handling skills
  - Return Sweep
  - Vocabulary development

- **Oral Language Skills: The foundations of learning to read and write!**
- Speaking and listening skills learned in the preschool years are crucial to future reading and writing achievement and school success. Children who do not develop strong oral language skills during this time find it difficult to keep pace with their peers in later years. They fall behind even before they start school. (Biemiller)





# Word Poverty...



Not all children are fortunate enough to be born into homes where parents or caregivers provide rich language experiences. These disadvantaged children enter our kindergartens lacking oral language skills – the most important pre-requisite to literacy success.

**LISTEN TALK LISTEN TALK**



Specific abilities required for reading and writing come from immediate experiences with oral and written language. We now know that exposure to rich literacy experiences throughout early childhood has a tremendous positive effect on young children, and delaying these kinds of experiences until children are of school age can severely limit ultimate achievement.

**NAEYC AND IRA SAY!**

# Our Oral Language Development Responsibility:

- Enhance children's exposure to print.
- Converse before, during, and after reading.
- Read aloud everyday.
- Develop positive attitudes around reading.
- Upgrade your read alouds.
- Revisit favorite books over and over.
- Invite children to join in.
- Praise conversation.



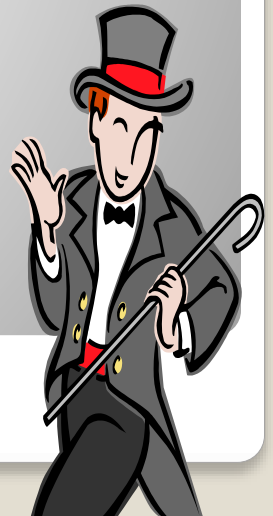
# When I read aloud, I ...

- Select an appropriate book, considering:
  - Children's ages, interests, attention spans
  - The text – is it engaging? Does it encourage participation and conversation? Does it contain something new?



# When I read aloud, I ...

- Converse before, during, and after reading.
- Get comfortable.
- Show and dwell on the pictures.
- Pace myself – allowing time for talk.
- Use motions for interest.
- Give it my all. Find your inner actor!



# Comprehension Strategies – Use your “Reading Words”! (bookmarks)

- Visualizing
- Connecting
- Use Schema
- Wondering/Questioning
- Inferring
- Synthesizing
- Determining Importance
  
- **READING IS THINKING!**



- **Let's enjoy a read aloud together...**

- What do you notice about the book?
- What do you notice about the reading?
- What do you notice about your own response?

**WHEN GRAMPA KISSED HIS ELBOW**  
**By Cynthia DeFelice**



# Read Aloud Resources:

- International Reading Association
- National Association for the Education of Young Children
- The Center for Improvement of Early Reading Achievement
- American Library Association
- Reading is Fundamental
- Check out your handouts...



## On Reading Aloud:

- **Sharing the excitement, fun, and beauty of our language can become a natural part of every day.** (Furr)

