



Reading aloud to your child should be an activity that continues through high school. Reading aloud develops a child's vocabulary and introduces them to ideas beyond their reading level. Children are capable of understanding more vocabulary than they speak.

Charlotte Mason said children are born persons. This is an excellent way to describe the fact that their mental capacity is intact as children. What needs to grow is their experiences and the connections they make based on those experiences.

Books are a great way to expand their experience. Make sure the books are lively and well written with beautiful art. There is a place for funny books with line drawings or more abstract art like *Peppa Pig*, but don't make these their only diet of

intellectual food. Same for older children and modern comic books.

Classics are perfect. There are many books recommending titles for children. Two we like are *Honey for a Child's Heart* by Gladys Hunt and *Books Children Love* by Elizabeth Laraway Wilson.

Hold young children in your lap or cuddle on the couch. Gather with older children in a place away from distractions. Read slowly, carefully, with emotion and enunciate. For young children run your finger under the words so that they understand that reading is done left to right, word by word, line by line.

Study and discuss pictures. Ask young children questions like "What do you think happens next?" "Who (fill in the blank)?" "What (fill in the blank)?" "Who is the story about?" "How do you think they feel?"

There are study guides for classics to glean questions from for older children. Or, just let natural curiosity and discussion happen. Talk about purpose and author intent or worldview. Look up locations on maps or globes. Learn about cultures or languages depicted in the stories read.

In the McGuffey Readers Series, the Third and Fourth Readers are good for Jr. High and High School for once a week read alouds done by the student. Instruction is given on proper posture and enunciation.

Let family interest guide your choices as well as book lists for the well-read or SAT book lists. The important thing is that you gather and read. If Dad can read too, all the better. Daily read alouds are for school, but a special time can be arranged to include Dad.