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Interactive Read Aloud Demonstrations

A great Read Aloud develops cognitive, linguistic, and social skills in children, while simultaneously connecting them with the joy of sharing stories. Our demonstrations support educators in refining their own storytelling styles by providing tools for making the most of their classroom storytimes.

A typical Read Aloud lasts 15 to 30 minutes and is followed by a 5- to 10-minute debrief in which we discuss book-sharing strategies and provide resources for educators and students’ families.

Select one of the kindergarten readiness skills below, then contact your Tandem Community Literacy Specialist to schedule a demonstration with the special focus of your choice. These skills are aligned with local and national learning standards, including the Common Core and Preschool Learning Foundations.

- **Phonological Awareness:** A child’s ability to recognize the prosody or “music” of a language and to notice, think about, and manipulate the individual sounds in words is an important early literacy skill. Rhyming books and songs are great tools for developing this skill and laying the groundwork for “sounding words out” when learning to read.

- **Vocabulary:** Young children are developmentally equipped with an incredible memory for learning new words. The more words they hear at this age, the more they will begin to develop broader vocabularies. A strong vocabulary allows children to express themselves more accurately and improves reading comprehension.

- **Social and Emotional Understanding:** Social understanding is the ability to form close, trusting relationships with peers, family and community members, while emotional understanding is the ability to recognize, manage, and express emotions. Strength in these areas makes it easier for a child to adapt to a classroom setting.

- **Self-Regulation:** Read Alouds that engage children in structured movement games and verbal participation help develop the ability to manage impulses and ignore distractions without stifling creativity or motivation. The better a child can stay calmly focused and alert, the better they will be at handling more complex tasks and working cooperatively with others.

- **Print Awareness:** Before they can start learning to read, children must become comfortable with handling books and identifying letters and words in print. When we focus children’s attention on the printed words we are reading, they begin to recognize that those symbols have sounds and meanings. Asking children to help turn pages or hold a book is also a great way to foster print awareness and build confidence.

- **Critical Thinking:** The ability to use information and skills in a variety of ways to solve problems prepares children to handle complex tasks such as math, science, and reading. We can foster this skill by encouraging children to answer questions and make predictions as we read together.