

Early Reading:

Setting the stage for literacy learning

Why it's important:

An adult, a child and a book is a rich learning space.

- When you read with a child you are creating a space of curiosity, safety and connection. It is a calming experience.
- Reading stories aloud allows you to stop and discuss the pictures, teach new words, ask questions and make connections to your child's own life experiences.
- Reading aloud introduces your child to book language, which is more sophisticated than regular conversation and will enhance their language comprehension.
- **In this activity, the focus is on visualizing parts of the story. This skill deepens comprehension for children as they attach their own images and ideas to the text you read.**



In your mind's eye...

As you read the book together,

Read the first few pages with your child's eyes closed.

What did you see in your mind's eye?

Where is this story happening?
(in a house? in a forest? on a street?)

What do you hear when you imagine that place?

Are there birds or cars, or sirens, or people talking?

After a few pages, let your child see the illustrations:

Is this how you saw the story? what is different from what you imagined?

Challenge?

Recreate, or retell the story with loose parts found in nature or at home: shells, blocks, ribbon, stuffed animals, lego, rocks or sticks, etc.