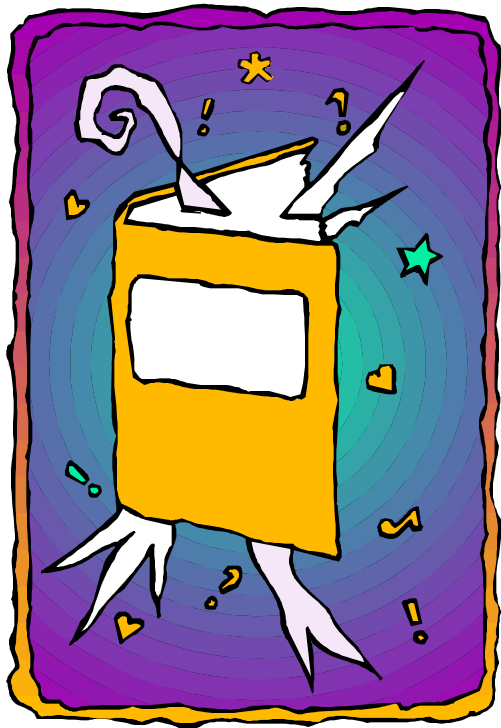


In the last few years, Harry Potter books have become a worldwide craze. Children around the world are eagerly reading all about the exciting adventures of the young wizard. If you are a parent, the chances are good that you have at least heard of the Harry Potter books. However, you may not know that the Harry Potter books can also be great teaching tools for parents.



Simply reading the Harry Potter books aloud with your child will help improve your child's language and reading skills. Teachers and child development experts agree that reading aloud to your child and having your child read aloud to you can be a tremendous benefit. Because children can hear and understand words and concepts that they could not possibly read on their own, these books expand vocabulary, increase knowledge, and develop enthusiasm for reading. In addition, books that are more difficult to read may have more exciting and colorful descriptions than the books children can read themselves.

There are a wide variety of activities that you can do with your children to help learning extend beyond the reading session. Here are some tips to keep in mind when reading to your children:



- Try to establish a routine by reading to them at the same time every day (before bedtime is preferable).
- Do not stop in the middle. Read a chapter or a set number of pages every night until you finish.
- Use inflections when you read, and be spirited.



- Try to adjust the rhythm of your reading to fit the action, for example, during an emotional moment, read slower to create suspense and make children more interested in the story.

- After you and your child read together, talk about what you have read. To get you started, below are some discussion questions based on the first book in the Harry Potter series: *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. Until your child gets into the activity, you may want to start the discussion off by answering the questions first.



- Which house at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry would the Sorting Hat assign you to? Why?
- If you had a wizard's fortune like Harry, what wizard things would you buy with it?



- Professor McGonagall can transfigure herself into a cat; what animal would you change into if you could? Why?

About Reading Wizards:

Reading Wizards: Parents and Children Reading Together is a series of bulletins on reading with children. Bulletins A through D are designed for parents of children as young as 2 years old and include activities based on Dr. Seuss books. Bulletins 1 through 6, based on the Harry Potter book series, were created for parents with children between the ages of 5 and 12. The bulletins will include tips on how to make the most of reading time with your children, as well as activities based on the Harry Potter Books for you and your child to do together.

For more information contact:

[educator name, county] or Daniel F. Perkins, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Family and Youth Resiliency and Policy.

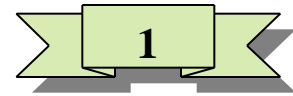
The Harry Potter books are written by J.K. Rowling and published by Arthur A. Levine Books.

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