

EPISODE **95**

# The Lowdown on Reading Aloud with 4- to 7-year- olds

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## In This Episode

Sarah shares tips for reading aloud to kids ages 4 to 7; and shares some of the common pitfalls and how to deal with them. Plus, she has recommendations!

## The Listening Guide

**Use this guide to skip to parts that most interest you, or listen to the entire podcast.**

- 1:14 A common question
- 3:26 Reading aloud with 4- to 7-year-olds
- 5:48 It's OK to still read picture books
- 6:50 Safeguard delight
- 8:01 Do you have to do extension activities?
- 9:17 What to look for
- 13:58 Book recommendations
- 17:29 Other resources for this age group
- 18:47 Let the kids speak

‘It is really, really crucial to make sure that we are **safeguarding that delight and enjoyment of stories at this age.** The last thing we want is for our kids who are learning how to read to think that the books they’re capable of reading when they’re still in the decoding phases are as good as books get.’

## Quotes and Questions

### \* **It's valuable to re-read.**

"We know that research indicates that even when kids reach school age repeated picture book readings of the same book, at least three times, increases their vocabulary acquisition up to 40%.

I think it takes a lot of pressure off. We feel like we always need to be changing out and getting new books for our kids and taking them to the library and swapping things out, and while obviously going to the library and giving our kids a very rich reading life is a wonderful thing, **repeated readings are still very, very important for 4 to 7 year olds.**"

### \* **Look for beauty.**

**"You want to just look for illustrations that make you want to stare at them a little longer than necessary.** That's the easiest way to say 'beautiful illustrations.' And, so if you come across a book where the illustrations make YOU want to stare a little longer than necessary, or make your kids want to stare a little longer than necessary, that's a good fit."

### \* **Prioritize rich language.**

"We're looking for rich language, and **very often picture books have much richer language than even chapter books or some middle grade novels**, so, it's helpful to remember that. That's another reason why it's really, really helpful to remember that picture books are just an important part of a child's reading life at this stage. The easiest way to describe rich language is just that it is exquisite rolling off the tongue. It's pleasant to read-aloud. You don't feel like the sentences are short and choppy and difficult to read."

## Show Notes

### Books from today's episode:

- [My Father's Dragon](#)
- [Water Can Be](#)
- [A Leaf Can Be](#)
- [A Rock Can Be](#)
- [The Lion and the Mouse](#)
- [The Tortoise and the Hare](#)
- [Richard Scarry's Busytown Treasury](#)
- [Bedtime for Frances](#)
- [Llama Llama Red Pajama](#)
- [Cycle City](#)
- [Lola Dutch](#)
- [Tops and Bottoms](#)

### Other links from today's show:

- Order [The Read-Aloud Family](#)
- Get the audio version of The Read-Aloud Family (read by Sarah Mackenzie) right [here](#)
- Use the hashtag #readaloudfamily to share photos on social media
- [RAR #94: The Lowdown on Reading Aloud to 0-3 Year Olds](#)
- [RAR #50: How Books Spark Easy Projects & Play](#)
- [RAR #45: Our Favorite Picture Books](#)
- [The Most Important Part of Teaching Kids to Read](#)

To find more resources to help you build your family culture around books, visit [ReadAloudRevival.com](http://ReadAloudRevival.com).