

Reading Recovery Read Aloud 2021 'Tell me a story'

The theme of this year's Reading Recovery Read Aloud is 'Tell me a story'. Listening to stories plays an important role in early reading and language development. Shared story time teaches new things about people and about the world, introduces new ideas and language, fires up the imagination and most of all, creates a sense of closeness and well-being. Everyone loves listening to stories!

The children's author SF Said (@whatSFSaid), recently shared this view about stories: *'When I re-read the books that I loved as a child, I am connecting with some of my oldest, deepest, most powerful and profound influences, Children's books shape us forever. They help us learn who we are and how to live in the world. Never, ever underestimate them!'*



During March, Reading Recovery children will be able to connect online to hear stories being shared by some special guests. Links will be sent to Reading Recovery teachers and will connect to recorded stories which will remain available during March. We hope Reading Recovery children will pass on the fun by also reading aloud to others. Reading Recovery children usually develop some firm favourites amongst their familiar books so this is a great opportunity for them to share and talk about their books with family at home or by securely connecting online with their wider family, their teachers and the other special people who support Reading Recovery.

The link between reading and improving children's life chances

At present far too many children are leaving primary school without the key skill of being able to read - including 40% of all our poorest children. Being unable to read well at age 11 has direct consequences for children's futures: they are more likely to struggle at secondary school, get fewer qualifications and find it harder to get a job or to progress in the workplace. Save the Children has reported on the strong evidence of links between poor literacy, low pay and unemployment in the UK. An inability to read well can mean a life sentence of poverty. The Reading Recovery programme makes a valuable contribution to ensuring that children get the help that they need to develop early literacy skills. We also know that the gains made in Reading Recovery are sustained in children's later education. Children who initially find reading difficult exit their Reading Recovery programmes reading confidently and enjoying all the benefits that reading brings.

But everyone can help to prioritise and support children's literacy development - parents, grandparents, business, volunteers, teachers, celebrities and politicians. Just ten minutes reading a day with a child makes a huge difference and helps them fall in love with reading.

About Reading Recovery Europe

Reading Recovery Europe based at UCL Institute of Education is a not-for-profit organisation. We believe it is the right of every child to be literate because literacy opens doors, breaks down barriers and reduces the chances of a lifetime of poverty. All children should receive the support they need to become effective, efficient and enthusiastic readers and writers and for some, literacy will only be achieved through special support such as Reading Recovery.

Reading Recovery (based at the International Literacy Centre) is a school-based literacy programme for the lowest achieving children aged five or six. Research shows that at more than four out of five children who take part in Reading Recovery go from being the lowest attaining in literacy in their class to catching up with their peers in less than 20 weeks. Children who completed a Reading Recovery programme at age six are shown to be still working at age appropriate levels of literacy in national assessments at age 11, five years after the end of the intervention. <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/international-literacy/> Gains are maintained as recent research showed, when it was found that academic achievements in school Years 9 and 11 (age 14 and 16) were significantly improved as a result of the intervention. <https://home.kpmg/uk/en/home/insights/2018/11/the-impact-of-reading-recovery-ten-years-after-intervention.html>

Reading Recovery Read Aloud is an annual event to celebrate the success of children and the work their teachers do each day to overcome the children's literacy difficulties. Thank you for your support for Reading Recovery Read Aloud.