



New Volunteer Tip Sheet

★ Today's Schedule

- 9:00-9:30 – New Volunteer Training
- 9:30-10:00 – Meet with reading partners to discuss plan for reading and craft ideas
- 10:00 – Volunteers paired with children
- 10:05-11:25 – Read to children, crafts, prize book give away
- 11:25 – Head back to the auditorium
- Quick debrief with volunteers, go to El Cholo for free appetizers

★ Why Do We Read Aloud to Children?

- Provides a model of reading
- Increases vocabulary
- Introduces new and familiar concepts
- Motivates interest in being a reader
- Just hearing the spoken language helps—try not to think of read aloud as school or that it is the volunteer's job to teach the kids to read

★ Tips for Reading Aloud Today

- Seat children so that all can see the pictures. Volunteers can sit around tables or on the floor in a circle, but make sure you are on the same level as the children.
- A “picture walk,” in which you go through the pictures in the book before reading it, is a good idea for familiarizing children with the story
- Use “voices” and read expressively. Make eye contact!
- Encourage conversation before, during, and after the read aloud.
- Adjust the pace with the story, but stay slower than seems normal.
- Craft sheets are available at each grade level table; however they are suggestions and not requirements.

★ Tips for Managing Students

- The children are used to having an adult in charge in the classroom. Do not be afraid to set boundaries
- Children oftentimes need a break to re-focus. Plan these breaks (and what you will do during them) into your schedule.
- Children of different ages have different needs. If you have younger children, expect (and plan for) shorter attention spans and more frequent breaks. If you have older children, you can read for longer stretches, but you and your partner need to figure out how to keep the story interesting even though you probably will not be able to finish the book.
- Move active students closer to you or your partner.
- Kids are there because they want to be there.
- Positive praise always helps!