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Importance of early childhood literacy

A child's reading and writing skills are an important part of his or her success in school and beyond. Reading aloud to children at an early age has many proven benefits, including the development of early language and literacy skills. The more exposure children have to books and reading experiences, the more likely they are to develop positive attitudes about reading and about themselves as readers and writers.

Early literacy strategies

Some things you can do to promote positive and enjoyable reading experiences with children include:

- Finding a comfortable and quiet place to share stories.
- Using calm and positive language when talking with children about reading.
- Creating a daily routine of reading books with children.
- Setting aside a special place for books, such as a bookshelf or table. This demonstrates that books and the activity of reading are valued.

Social emotional learning

Reading stories out loud to a child is a meaningful and enjoyable way to introduce and discuss topics that are sometimes difficult to talk about with children. We call recognizing, naming, and talking about feelings "social emotional learning."

Reading stories about characters who are feeling certain emotions helps children learn:

- How to recognize and name their own emotions.
- That talking about their feelings is healthy and normal.

When children are able to recognize their own emotions, they are often better able to express themselves in healthy and productive ways. As well, they often learn how to recognize and respond to others experiencing similar emotions.

About this book

This book is about Taqu learning how to listen. Other phrases that are connected to listening are "being a good friend," "being respectful," and "giving someone space." This book can be used to start a conversation with young children about what it feels like to be curious, and how to respect other people by listening to them when they talk or ask you for something.

Get talking!

Here are some prompts to start discussion after reading the story:

- Have you ever felt curious?
- What did you do when you felt curious?
- What does it mean to listen to someone?
- Why is it important to listen?
- How can you show someone that you are listening?

Try this!

- Provide paper and drawing materials (crayons, pencils, markers, etc.) for children to draw a picture of a time when they felt curious. Ask them to add their drawings to a "Feelings Display" up on a wall. Encourage them to think about their feelings and to point to the feeling words and pictures.
- Choose a scene in the book where Taqu is feeling curious and ask the children to act out the scene as you read out loud.
- Make paper-bag puppets of Taqu and Aqi using paper bags, markers or crayons, and scrap pieces of paper. Act out the story using the puppets.

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Nunavummi

Reading Series

The Nunavummi Reading Series is a Nunavut-developed series that supports literacy learning while teaching readers about the people, traditions, and environment of the Canadian Arctic.

Level 10

- 16–32 pages
- Sentences and stories become longer and more complex
- Varied punctuation
- Dialogue is included in fiction texts
- Readers rely more on the words than the images to decode the text



- 24–32 pages
- Sentences become complex and varied
- Varied punctuation
- Dialogue is included in fiction texts and is necessary to understand the story
- Readers rely more on the words than the images to decode the text

Level 12

- 24–40 pages
- Sentences are complex and vary in length
- Lots of varied punctuation
- Dialogue is included in fiction texts and is necessary to understand the story
- Readers rely on the words to decode the text; images are present but only somewhat supportive

