

Kindergarten Read-Aloud Cheat Sheet

Calm • Predictable • Low-Prep

1 Get Ready (30 sec)

🎵 *Eyes watching, ears listening, voices quiet, bodies still.*

> “When our bodies are ready, our brains can learn.”

2 Book Basics (1 min)

- **Title** – the name of the book
- **Author** – wrote the words
- **Illustrator** – drew the pictures

👉 “Point to the pictures.”

3 Think Before Reading (1 min)

Ask **ONE**: – “What do you notice on the cover?”

– “What do you think this book is about?”

– “Does this remind you of something you know?”

(1–2 answers only)

4 Purpose for Listening (15 sec)

“While I read, listen for ____.” (feeling • problem • change • repeated idea)

5 Read the Story (5–7 min)

- Enjoy the story
 - Read with expression
 - Clarify 1–2 **key words only**
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6 Stop & Think (Optional)

Best saved for **second read**

If stopping once: - “How does the character feel?”
- “What might happen next?”

7 Turn & Talk (45 sec)

“Tell your partner one thing you noticed.”

🕒 20–30 sec → Share from **2 kids**

8 After the Story (2 min)

Choose 1–2: - “What was the story mostly about?”
- “Why did the character do that?”
- “Have you ever felt like that?”

🔧 Behaviour Tips

- Sit close to teacher
 - Have a background image of children listening and watching their teacher on the carpet
 - Move closer, whisper: “*Show me listening*”
 - Redirect quietly, follow up later
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★ **Remember:** Less stopping = more focus.
Most learning happens over multiple **reads**.

TIPS & TRICKS

Before the Read Aloud (Set Them Up for Success)

1. Make the routine predictable

Start read alouds the same way every day. Predictability lowers anxiety and helps students' bodies get ready to listen.

- Same spot
- Same opening song or phrase
- Same short expectations (3 max)

2. Teach "listening looks like..." (briefly)

Use concrete language:

- Eyes watching
- Ears listening
- Hands in lap or holding a fidget
- Body calm or cozy

Avoid long explanations—model it for 5 seconds, then begin.

3. Regulate bodies before asking for listening

Listening doesn't come before regulation.

- 3 deep breaths together

Even 30 seconds helps.

During the Read Aloud (Support Self-Regulation)

4. Keep it short (and stop while it's going well)

- Aim for 5–8 minutes for many groups
- It's okay to read only part of a book
Stopping early builds success and stamina over time.

5. Allow quiet movement

Still bodies aren't required for learning.

- Sit on knees
- Hold a small fidget
- Rock gently
- Sit slightly apart

Movement ≠ disengagement.

6. Narrate positive regulation

Say what you want more of:

- "I see bodies getting cozy."
- "You're bringing your eyes back to the book."
- "You're fixing your body—thank you."

This teaches *how* to self-regulate.

7. Use "pause and breathe" moments

When attention drifts:

- Close the book
- Take one breath together
- Reopen and continue

No lectures needed.

☰ Engagement Without Overstimulating

8. Limit questions during the first read

Too many questions break regulation.

- 1 quick prediction OR
- 1 turn-and-talk (10 seconds max)

Save deeper questions for later reads.

9. Use your voice strategically

- Quieter voice = more attention
- Slower pace = calmer bodies
- Pause before turning the page

Silence is powerful.

After the Read Aloud (Build Skills Over Time)

10. Name the success

End with reflection:

- “What helped your body listen today?”
- “What will we try again tomorrow?”

This builds metacognition and self-regulation.

11. Accept partial success

Some students may:

- Listen from the side
- Join late
- Leave early

That’s still regulation and belonging.

Teacher Mindset Tip (Important)

Your connection to the story matters.

When *you* enjoy and know the book:

- Your voice is calmer
- Your pacing improves
- Students feel your confidence

The more you like the story, the more your students will too.