








Raising an Athlete vs. Raising a Reader

The good news: If you know how to raise an athlete, you already understand the basics of raising a reader! If you want your child to be...

	AN ATHLETE	A READER
<p>START EARLY</p>	<p> Display team logos at home from a child's earliest days. Think of toys, blankets and clothing.</p>	<p>Connect reading with pleasure from the start: Read to babies; keep books visible at home and in the car; let your baby hold and even chew on books. Board books are designed for this.</p> <p></p>
<p>PROVIDE ACCESS</p>	<p>Give children the equipment and facilities to practice. You can't learn to play basketball if you don't have a ball and hoop!</p> <p></p>	<p>Give children the equipment to practice: Age appropriate books; regular trips to the library; gifts of books and magazines. You can't learn to value reading if you don't have enjoyable things to read!</p> <p></p>
<p>MODEL GOOD SKILLS</p>	<p>Take children to youth and adult sporting events. Watch professional athletes play the game.</p>	<p>Read in front of children and let them see and hear adults read well. Show children you value reading by listening to audiobooks and reading together daily.</p> <p></p>
<p>KEEP THE EXCITEMENT ALIVE</p>	<p>Attend games and discuss them, even after children have learned the basics of the game. Socialize and talk about games with friends and family.</p> <p></p>	<p>Continue reading to children even after they have learned to read on their own. Point out news stories on subjects that interest them. Ask children in your life about their favorite books and what they are reading. Share about your favorites and what you are reading.</p> <p></p>

Read Aloud WV supports families in raising readers through:



- **Book Distribution:** We give children thousands of high-quality books of their choice for their home libraries.
- **Classroom Readers:** We train and place volunteers with classrooms across the state to serve as weekly "reading role models."
- **Reader Friendly Classrooms:** We support teachers and schools in creating text-rich environments where their students can discover books they love.+
- **Community Engagement:** We educate the public and involve the communities in creating a culture that values books and reading.



stateoffice@readaloudwv.org | (304) 345-5212