



1, 2, 3, Read!

★ **The Fast Start Routine**

Fast Start combines several principles of effective reading instruction.
The routine is simple:

Read to your child,
Read with your child,
Listen to your child read!

- 1. Read to your child.** Sit together in a comfortable, quiet, well-lit place. Read the poem aloud to your child several times, pointing to the words as you read. You are modeling fluent reading! Learning something is difficult if we don't understand what it should look or sound like. That's why reading aloud to children is so important.
- 2. Read with your child.** Read the poem aloud several times with your child. Choral reading (reading aloud together with your child) is a very supportive way to introduce a new text. Don't be concerned if your child misses a word or two.
- 3. Listen to your child read.** In this step, your child reads the poem several times to you! Offer lavish praise (and help, if necessary). Like musicians or athletes, readers must practice to achieve fluency. If your child stumbles on a word when reading independently, wait a second or two and then simply say the word. As your child's fluency increases, you might even tape-record him or her!

Then do an activity or two from the family page.

Keep the atmosphere gamelike and relaxed, so that children stay engaged and enjoy the interactions. You can check off activities as you do them. You might repeat the same activity until your child seems very confident doing it.

Follow this routine at least two days in a row for each poem.

Record your time on the log sheet after each session, to share information with the teacher and to help you keep track of your sessions.