



The Read Aloud Program

RAP, The Read Aloud Program, is a simple, direct family program that promotes parents reading aloud to children and helps families spend time together, share good books and build a lifelong love of reading.

RAP families take time out from busy schedules to attend the full program of four sessions or the Mini RAP Program, which is one evening only at a school. After short introductory activities, the students gather in age-level groups to listen to volunteers read stories. Parents, grandparents, teachers, and caregivers stay in the cafeteria with the RAP presenter and relax as they listen to stories, reading tips, and chapter books. RAP will also design parenting handouts to coordinate with whole-school objectives. RAP provides free snacks, drinks, and a light dinner, and the evening ends with door prizes and a party atmosphere.

RAP is designed for families with children from toddlers to teens. The program takes the stress out of reading. The sessions are relaxed and enjoyable. Adults and children all experience the power and pleasure of being read to. RAP focuses on success. At RAP sessions, there are no tests, quizzes, or reports. Reading is fun.

RAP has five goals:

1. Encourage parents* and teachers to read aloud to children on a regular basis.
2. Provide resources to help parents and teachers choose books and read to children.
3. Demonstrate the pleasure of reading and its relevance to daily life.
4. Nurture a love of reading in parents and awaken a love of reading in children.
5. Encourage families to limit television, computer, and screen time and **read**.

**The term "parents" includes parents, grandparents, relatives, or other caregivers.*

The program begins at 5:30, after school programs have ended for the day.

The RAP schedule:

5:30 - 6:00	Sign in, snacks, drinks, and family time
6:00 - 6:20	Short, fun, introductory activities
6:20 - 7:10	Children read with RAP volunteers; adults remain with the RAP presenter in the cafeteria
7:10 - 7:30	Light dinner is served
7:30 - 7:45	Door prizes and books awarded

Read Aloud America Board of Directors

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RAP brings communities together. Schools, businesses, community organizations, and individuals join together to create a fun event that supports children's learning and benefits all who are involved.

Families benefit because RAP:

1. Promotes closeness and communication
2. Gets children interested in books
3. Helps adults choose books and find reading help
4. Increases children's chances for success in school

Schools benefit because RAP:

1. Increases students interest in reading
2. Gets parents involved in their children's education
3. Utilizes school facilities for community enrichment
4. Makes students feel more positive about school

Communities benefit because RAP:

1. Brings families together in an atmosphere of fun and learning
2. Involves community agencies and individuals in supporting education
3. Helps create lifelong readers and leaders
4. Helps create a community of informed citizens and literate workers

RAP leaders pay attention to feedback from teachers, parents, and students. They evaluate the program constantly and make changes when necessary to keep it up-to-date and rewarding for the people who participate. RAP is a dynamic program that responds to the needs of families and schools.

To learn more about RAP or find out how to start the program at your school, contact Jed Gaines:

Phone: (808) 531-1985
Cell: (808) 224-1727
Email: jedgaines@readaloudamerica.org

To become a RAP volunteer, please sign up online at:

http://www.readaloudamerica.org/volunteer_ops.htm

Read Aloud America Mission Statement

Through the fun of reading and being read-to, Read Aloud America promotes literacy, bonds families, and builds communities of lifetime readers.

Read Aloud America

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