



# First Pages

## Read-To-Me Text-To-Speech

Reading side-by-side with your child is an important way to build literacy, cognitive, and social emotional skills, children also need opportunities to explore books independently. Text-to-speech is one way reading material can be accessible to all children.

- Text-to-speech is a widely available form of assistive technology.
- Text-to-speech is now built-in on most personal digital devices.
- Text-to-speech applications can give young children access to text well before they can read independently.
- Using text-to-speech will not delay a young child's literacy development or reading skills.
- Listening to a book being read aloud while looking at the printed words on a page can help kids build early literacy and reading skills.
- Using text-to-speech can provide a multisensory experience for some young children by combining seeing and hearing.

There are many online resources with free audiobooks and digital books for young children.

- Storyline Online [storylineonline.net](https://www.storylineonline.net)
- Read&Write for Google Chrome
- Libby [www.libbyapp.com](https://www.libbyapp.com)

Audiobooks and digital text-to-speech books give ALL kids access to print and books because they are useable despite differences in vision, movement, or learning styles.