skills on the hill pediatric therapy

Reading Aloud That Actually Builds Language

Turn story time into language-building time

Reading together is one of the most powerful things you can do for your child's language - but it's not about finishing the book. How you read matters more than what you read. Here's how to make every story count.

NOTICE	TRY	BUILD	CONNECT	GROW

Make it a conversation, not a performance

Pause, ask questions, let them turn pages and point - it's okay to go off-script

Follow their interest

Linger on the page they love, skip pages, and reread favorites - repetition builds language

Ask "what" and "where," then "why"

Start with pointing and labeling for little ones

Add open-ended questions as they grow

Try dialogic reading (the PEER trick)

Prompt them to say something, Evaluate, Expand on their words, Repeat

Helpful idea

"What's that?" > "Dog!" > "Yes, a big brown dog!" > "Big brown dog."

Connect it to real life

"We saw a truck like that today!" links books to their world

Keep it fun and short

Silly voices welcome; stop before they're done; a wiggly listener is still listening

Parent tip: Start small. Pick one idea that fits your family, practice it consistently, and build from there.