

The image shows an open book lying flat on a surface. A white rectangular box is centered over the top half of the book, containing the title text. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

Building the Self-Efficacy of
Teachers in Using the
Interactive Read-Aloud to
Promote Student Reading
Performance and Motivation

Dear Community,

I am so excited to begin learning alongside you all as the staff at _____ begins its mission of making the Interactive Read-Aloud routine a part of its daily practice. Read-alouds are a vital part of instruction for English-Language Arts, and by making them more interactive for students, we can enhance our students' ability to write and talk about books in many different ways. The staff will soon come together for an all-day workshop to share best practices for planning and executing IRA lessons in the classroom, as well as surveying students on what they like to read and assessing students on their comprehension, or text understanding.

Reading aloud to children on a daily basis has been shown to improve both their reading motivation, or their interest and willingness to read, as well as their reading performance, or how well they read. If every child at _____ was read aloud to each day both at school and at home, they would be getting a double dose of reading that would do wonders for their motivation and performance. Reading and being read to at home are especially important during the summer and winter breaks, when reading often takes a big dip that can set children behind when they return to school.

We value your input and expertise in advancing literacy, and to that end want the resources from the staff workshop to be available for you to view as you wish whether you are a parent or relative of a child at _____, a community volunteer, or just a general advocate of literacy. After the completion of the workshop, we will be holding three literacy nights—one in the fall, one in the winter, and one in the spring—to further explain how you can make good use of the resources that the staff will be using. The resources will be ongoingly accessible for you at this link: _____. Please let us know if you have any questions by contacting your child's teacher or emailing me at dtownsend01@vusd.org.

Sincerely,
Daniel Townsend