Books Are the Fun Part! Boost Your Storytimes with Interactive Reading Techniques

1. Get rhythm
   Find a book with rhythm built in (like Rah, Rah, Radishes! or Tanka, Tanka Skunk) and have kids clap or tap along.

2. Say it again
   Find a book that includes a repeated word or phrase (like Hooray for Hat! by Brian Won or The Cow Loves Cookies by Karma Wilson). Share the repeated element with kids and ask for their help repeating it. Be prepared for extreme participation!

3. Sing out
   Find a singable book, and sing it!

4. Embrace repetition
   Does your class love a certain story? Read it again! If the story lends itself to interpretation, try reading it, telling it, and singing it. Then make a craft project about it and read it again.

5. All together now
   Find a book that lends itself to choral reading (like I Went Walking by Sue Williams), and have children repeat the words after you.

6. Ask questions
   Give your students a chance to get involved by asking questions about a story as you read. Asking open-ended questions (“How is Elephant feeling now?”) and giving children a chance to respond is called dialogic reading. It gives kids a chance to feel invested in a story.

7. Mix it up
   Add fun transition activities and feature many kinds of books!

Try these techniques with some of your favorite picture books, or pair with “Amadee’s Storytime Picks” booklists.