

Dial-a-Story™

|| A Phone Call That Builds Readers ||

Because a phone call can do what Wi-Fi can't...
build confidence, fluency, and a love of reading.



Stories
Build
Brighter
Kids

A
brighter
tomorrow
starts with
a story.

Why Dial-a-Story?

Because a phone call can do what Wi-Fi can't... build confidence, fluency, and a love of reading.

In too many homes, especially in low-income communities, there are no books... no internet... and no adult available to help. Over **12 million U.S. students** live in homes without reliable internet access (NCES, 2021). Reading becomes a solo struggle, disconnected and unsupported.

Then they discover Dial-a-Story.

They dial the number, enter six digits... and suddenly, they're not alone. They're listening to a story read aloud by a teacher, an author, or an older student. The rhythm draws them in. The words begin to make sense. And the desire to read takes root.

Research shows that when children hear fluent reading, they build **comprehension, word recognition, and oral language skills faster** (National Reading Panel, 2000). And when children hear the same story repeatedly, those benefits continue to build through familiarity, vocabulary growth, and increased confidence (Rasinski, 2012).



**Even kindergartners can do it on their own.
No apps. No screens. No tech barriers.
Just a phone, and a story.**

Read
Today
Brighter
Tomorrow

Dial-a-Story meets students where they are. And it moves them forward, one call at a time. This is a family-friendly, screen-free program that gives kids a voice, parents a choice, and schools a no-cost, no-hassle way to build reading skills from day one.

Independence and Repetition Matter

Two research-supported reasons Dial-a-Story helps students grow.



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Why Independence Matters || And What the Research Says



Independent Readers
Brighter Futures

Students build confidence when they can work independently, especially in reading.

Dial-a-Story empowers even the youngest learners to engage in literacy practice without adult assistance. This kind of self-directed learning builds motivation, metacognition, and long-term academic resilience.

A meta-analysis published in **Educational Psychology Review** found that autonomy-supportive approaches can strengthen motivation and engagement in learning (Su & Reeve, 2011).

The OECD's Teaching and Learning International Survey (**TALIS, 2018**) confirms that when students are encouraged to take ownership of learning, it strengthens both academic outcomes and critical thinking.

When students can listen, think, and reflect, and relisten to a story without needing help, they begin to believe they can learn anything. This confidence leads to better outcomes, especially for underserved learners who may not always have adult support at home.

Why Repetition Matters || And What the Research Says



Children don't just need to hear new words, they need to hear them again and again.

Repetition is one of the most powerful tools for building vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. It helps new information stick, supports word recognition, and builds the confidence that comes from familiarity.

The **Journal of Educational Psychology** found that repeated read-alouds significantly improve vocabulary acquisition and story understanding in young children (Sénéchal & Cornell, 1993).

The **National Reading Panel (2000)** confirmed that repeated exposure to words in meaningful contexts is a key factor in building reading fluency and retention.

Dial-a-Story lets students listen to the same book as many times as they want without shame, judgment, or tech barriers. Each replay deepens understanding. Every listen builds mastery.

Why Schools Should Use It

Practical benefits for classrooms, families, and literacy initiatives.



1 It's Free, Scalable, and Data-Backed



- No cost to participate
- Easily implemented in classrooms or homes
- Research-supported literacy development through oral language exposure and repetition

2 Access Without Internet or Devices



- Accessible from landlines, flip phones, or any basic device – leveling the playing field for students without home tech access.
- No parental tech support required

3 Fluency Through Repetition and Modeled Reading



- Improves phrasing, decoding, and vocabulary retention
- Encourages students to read books after hearing them aloud
- Particularly effective for grades K–2 and English language learners, as supported by Rasinski's research on repeated reading (2012).

*Practice
Today
A Brighter
Tomorrow*

4 Designed for Privacy, Independence, and Trust



- Designed to protect student privacy
- Teachers assign 6-digit codes, no student names or identifiers are collected
- Students listen independently and anonymously

5 Supports Mandates and Strategic Literacy Goals



- Supports daily 20-minute reading routines.
- Supports Title I, ESSER, and early intervention literacy efforts



*A simple call.
A stronger tomorrow.*

Dial-a-Story helps schools and districts close literacy gaps and create more confident, independent readers – one phone call at a time.

Results That Speak for Themselves

What educators notice. What the research supports.



Modeled Fluency = Real Growth

Students who consistently hear modeled fluent reading perform better on oral reading fluency assessments (National Reading Panel, 2000).



Independent Practice with Purpose

Purpose-based reading tasks increase motivation, stamina, and emotional regulation (UBC, 2020).



Repetition That Builds Mastery

In a study on automaticity and fluency, Samuels (1979) found that repeated reading significantly boosts decoding speed and confidence, especially in early readers.



Self-Driven Engagement

Participating teachers report students re-listening by choice, practicing phrasing, and voluntarily reading along.

What Schools and Teachers Are Saying

“Even my kindergartners can use it on their own. Now they want to hear their book and try to read it, too.”



– Teacher ♥

“I wish we could do this during the school day! This is amazing... the kids feel independent, motivated, and proud of their progress.”



– Teacher ♥

Explore the Ecosystem



Learn2ReadRead2Learn.com

Explore the complete Valedictorian Literacy Ecosystem, implementation resources, and partnership opportunities.



Every child deserves the opportunity to become a confident reader. Together, we can help create stronger foundations through literacy.