

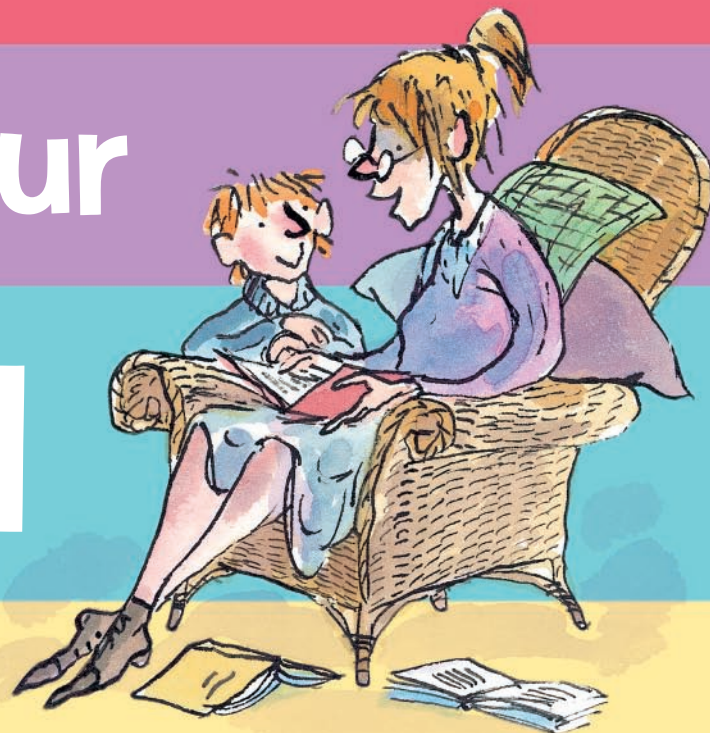
Reading

PEARSON

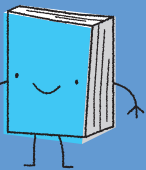
in association with
booktrust

with your

Child



foreword by
Anthony Browne



Booktime
www.booktime.org.uk





This booklet was produced by Booktime, a free books programme for reception-age children that encourages reading together for fun and for pleasure.



Sharing books



You've probably been looking at books with your child for some time now.

-  Sharing a book with a child is fun. It's a time for closeness, laughing and talking together.
-  It's good to involve everyone - brothers, sisters, grannies and granddads - the circle of people important in your family.



The reading of picture books with your child is one of the most important and enjoyable ways of spending time together. The combination of pictures and words is a close relationship, which echoes the relationship between parent and child.

With a picture book the child looks at the pictures while the adult reads the text. This leads to surprising and stimulating shared conversations between the two, as text and pictures are explored and pored over. In the best picture books there is often a mysterious gap between the pictures and the words, a gap that is filled by the child's imagination.

Sometimes the illustrations will tell a slightly different story from the words, by suggesting what the character is thinking or feeling. Sometimes they may even contradict the text. The way an artist places characters in a scene, uses colour, light and shade, can tell us far more of the story than the words. These are all clues to understanding, to be discovered and talked about, together. It is a valuable experience, for both parent and child.

Anthony Browne

Anthony Browne, Children's Laureate 2009-11



Some questions answered

What do I do if my child picks a book that is too hard?

You could read part of it and talk about the ideas and pictures. Children can enjoy more difficult books than they can read on their own.






How do I find the time?

Getting together with a book for just ten to twenty minutes a day, or several times a week, is a great support.



How can I find the right book?

-  Listen to your child and find out what sort of books he or she enjoys.
-  Ask other parents and your child's teacher for tips on what to read.
-  Find out about recommended books at libraries, bookshops and on book websites.

Is it all right to read to my child in my first language?

It's great for children to hear stories and rhymes in the language that is spoken at home. Children are much better than adults at dealing with two languages.





Why is my child taking longer than others to read?

Most children learn to read between the ages of four and seven, but children really do learn at different rates. What matters is that they know books are fun.


A few things to remember



-  Variety is great. Encourage your child to read the things that interest them. This could include comics, magazines, joke books, poetry and books about pets or sport.

-  It's good if your child sees you reading – anything from books, letters and e-mails to recipes, newspapers and magazines.





-  Find the time to look at any book that comes home from school and share your child's favourite books with them.





Books at bedtime

There's something really special about sharing stories at bedtime.

-  The promise of one more story, or the end of last night's, makes children look forward to bedtime.
-  Bedtime stories create a feeling of security and love.



-  Bedtime books make happy memories that we remember when we're older.
-  It's great if the whole family joins in – this shows how much stories and reading matter.



