



Reading with your child



Books can open up whole new worlds for children. Reading stories and information books can help children learn lots of new things, including new vocabulary.

All children like books – even babies, and they like having some time with you to look at them. By setting aside a few moments each day to look at books together you can have some quality time with your child and you will teach them something too.



Before you even open a book you can talk about the front cover and what that tells you about the book, what you think might happen and who the characters are going to be.

When you look at a book together, show your child how a book works:

- Which way it opens
- What the pictures give clues about the stories
- Show them the writing and that the letters and words are what you are reading to them
- You and your child might point to each word as you read it, showing them that the words are read from left to right
- Let your child turn the pages as you read
- Talk to your child about what is happening in the story or ask them to tell you, and ask them to think what might happen next



There is no need to teach your child the alphabet yet, unless they are interested. You might like to point out the letter that starts their name, or names of others in your family.

Read stories to your child in an interesting way. For example, bring the giant to life with “Fe, Fi, Fo, Fum!” Maybe your child will want to join in too. Read traditional stories from your own culture and in your own language if your first language is not English.

Tell your child nursery rhymes or sing them together. Your child will like to hear nonsense rhymes and jingles too. Ask us if you would like to borrow books with rhymes in them.

Come and ask us if you would like more advice in reading with your child. We have lots of lovely books in school for you and your child to borrow to read together. Your local library would be a great place to go and spend some time looking at books too, especially on a cold, wet, winter afternoon!

