



# Helping your Child Learn to Read



## A guide for parents and carers

**Sharing Books** - Always remember that we teach phonics to help our children learn to read and write and in order to do this successfully they need to love books! The best way to help your child to read is to read as many books as possible. Read anything that your child is interested in (including magazines, menus, etc.). Remember to use silly voices, make sound effects, pull faces, act things out, talk about what you see, talk about what you both think and feel and most importantly, have fun!

**Give everything a name** - Build your child's vocabulary by talking about interesting words and objects. For example, "Look at that aeroplane! Those are the wings of the plane. Why do you think they are called wings?"



**Once is never enough!** - Encourage your child to re-read favourite books and poems as well as their school reading book. Children should be reading every day.

**Dig deeper into the story** - Ask your child questions about the story you have just read. Talk about...the title, front cover, author, illustrator, characters, how to turn pages over, what might happen next, what happens at the beginning, middle, end of the story. Get children to join in repetitive phrases.

**Take control of the television** - Make sure that there are no distractions when reading. Make it a special time between you and your child. Always try and share a book with your child before they go to bed.



**Be patient** - When your child is trying to sound out words, especially unfamiliar words, give him or her time to do so. Talk to your child! Don't underestimate the importance of talk in your child's development.