



Helping Your Nursery Child at home

Sharing a book with your child can help their development, communication and creativity.

Try to read to your child for a short time

When reading with your child:

- Encourage your child to choose a book they would like to read - they are more likely to enjoy a book they have chosen themselves. It could be a fact book instead of a story.
- Let them see your facial expressions and don't be afraid to tell part of the story in a funny voice to make them giggle!
- Don't worry if your child wants to read the same thing more than once, even if you think it might be too easy for them. Having a favourite book or story can help them understand that reading is fun.
- Remember to give your child time to think before answering questions.

Why not...

- Encourage your child to carry a book to read during journeys, or even while waiting for an appointment.
- Help your child to read words on signs and posters when out and about, and talk to them about what they say.
- Read a recipe with your child whilst you are cooking.
- If you have several children in your household, why not encourage the older ones to read with the younger ones?

You might also want to:

- Encourage them to hold the book and turn the pages themselves.
- Ask questions about the book you're reading together, starting with simple choices like, 'Are they happy or sad?'
- Make it interactive by giving simple instructions like 'Can you find the whale?' and getting them to point to pictures on the page.
- Try to use questions that encourage more than a yes or no answer. For example, 'Where do you think the penguin is swimming to?'
- Encourage your child to talk about the people and places in stories.

