



# Helping Your Child Learn At Home

## READING

### Why read?

Your child is starting to read for themselves but they still need your support. By encouraging your child to read to you, being an enthusiastic listener and talking about new words and their meanings, you'll help them to develop their reading skills.

- Reading aloud with an adult is the most important step in preparing a child to read.
- A child who enjoys being read to is more likely to want to learn to read by themselves.
- Reading encourages the development of a child's vocabulary.
- By being read to, children learn how stories work and begin working on literacy comprehension skills.
- Read together every day. Make this a warm and loving time when the two of you can cuddle close together. Bedtime is an especially great time for reading together. Tell your child how much you enjoy reading together.
- Give everything a name - You can build comprehension skills early, even with the littlest child. Play games that involve naming or pointing to objects things like, "Where's your nose?" and then, "Where's mummy's nose?" Or touch your child's nose and say, "What's this?"
- Use books in a variety of situations and match them to what your child is doing. You could take a book about insects to read when you're at the park.



- Read with fun in your voice - Make up voices for the different characters in a story.
- Read poetry and stories that rhyme and pause so your child can say the rhyming words.
- Visit your local library and borrow books. It's free and easy to join and children can have their own library card.
- Point out words and phrases on shops and signs when you are out and about. Children can recognise familiar words really quickly.



- Read it again and again and again. - Your child will probably want to hear a favourite story over and over. Go ahead and read the same book for the 100th time! Research suggests that repeated readings help children develop language skills.
- Talk about writing, too - Draw your child's attention to the way writing works. When looking at a book together, point out how we read from left to right and how words are separated by spaces.
- Know when to stop - If your child loses interest or has trouble paying attention; just put the book away for a while. Don't continue reading if your child is not enjoying it.
- Let your child see you reading.

