



Parents and Carers Information Sheet 1: Reading with your child

Why is reading with your child important?

- It encourages and develops their speech, communication, language and listening skills.
- It develops their imagination.
- Reading can introduce your child to new vocabulary.
- Reading can help to discover the different meanings of words.
- Your child will learn that print carries meaning and this will help them to begin to learn to read for themselves.
- Reading can help your child to name and understand their emotions.

How can you help your child develop a love of reading?

- Talk about the pictures and point to the words as you read them.
- Let your child turn the pages while you read.
- Read to your child in your first language.
- Find a quiet, comfortable place to share a book away from background noise such as the TV.
- Let your child tell the story through the pictures.
- Encourage your child to notice detail in pictures.
- Use a range of voices, actions or toys as you tell a story.
- Encourage your child to ask lots of questions and respond to their questions.
- Point out rhyming words (they will have the same end sound). Make up your own rhyming words.
- Point out letters from your child's name that they might recognise.
- Follow the words in the book from left to right and show that in English writing goes from left to right and top to bottom on a page.

Follow your child's lead.

Your child will develop in their own way and at their own pace.

There are so many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all.

Jacqueline Kennedy

Ideas to try at home:

Jigsaw puzzles.

Help your child to notice the details in the pictures.

Act out familiar stories

Take on a role and use repeated language. (e.g. "Who has been eating my porridge?")

Let your child see you read for pleasure and to follow instructions such as a recipe.

Make puppets. Tell stories using the puppets or make up your own together.

Make a story part of your child's bedtime routine.

Share rhyming stories and nursery rhymes. This will help your child see patterns in language.

Ideas to try at out and about:

Make a **shopping list.** Model reading it and looking at shop labels as you go shopping.

Spotting letters
Look out for letters on signs and posters. Spot any in your child's name or other familiar ones.

Play I Spy
Use the initial sound of words and not the letter names.

Look at the **detailed features of objects** to help your child notice small differences ready for reading.

Play **logo spotting games.** Help your child to notice any familiar shops and brands.

Stop and listen to the sounds around you. This will help your child listen and differentiate sounds in words.

Useful Information:

Visit your library to borrow story and information books for free.

Visit charity shops for great value, second hand books.