



Reading at home with your child

Parents who engage with reading at home with their children, prepare them to become committed and enthusiastic readers and can transform their attitudes to reading. Their children learn to focus and share the enjoyment stories; they learn how stories start and finish, and how a plot unravels and is resolved; they learn that books can transport them elsewhere.

Book talk introduces children to language that they might not hear in ordinary conversation. This primes them to understand what they read later, in their leisure reading and across the curriculum at school.

Research into the impact of parents reading with their children has found staggering differences in the number of words that children would have heard by the time they were 5 years old.

Never read to - 4,662 words
1–2 times per week – 63,570 words
3–5 times per week - 169,520 words
Daily - 296,660 words
Five books a day - 1,483,300 words

Supporting your child to read at home

Encourage your child to read

Reading helps your child's wellbeing, develops imagination, and has educational benefits. Just a few minutes a day can have a big impact on children of all ages.

In foundation stage and KS1, where the children are learning to read using phonics, they will bring home a book that has been carefully chosen so that they can work out all the words. Encourage them to sound out words they cannot read on sight and to re-read the word after they have sounded it out.

Read aloud regularly

Try to read to children every day. It's a special time to snuggle up and enjoy a story. Stories matter and children love re-reading them and poring over the pictures. Try adding funny voices to bring characters to life.

Share reading with older children, maybe read a page of a book each, taking turns to read aloud to each other. This means that they can enjoy the experience of listening to a story, hear what fluent reading sounds like and practice their own reading skills.

Encourage reading choice

Give children lots of opportunities to read different things in their own time - it doesn't just have to be books. There's fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comics, magazines, recipes and much more. Try leaving interesting reading material in different places around the home and see who picks it up.

Read together

Choose a favourite time to read together and enjoy it. This might be everyone in the family reading the same book together, reading different things at the same time, or getting your children to read to each other.

Create a comfortable environment

Make a calm, comfortable place for your family to relax and read on their own or together. Try to find a quiet space and switch off the TV and other devices.

Make use of your local library

Visit your library to explore all sorts of reading ideas. Local libraries also offer brilliant online materials, including audiobooks and eBooks to borrow. [Find your local library](#) to explore what is available and to join up.

Talk about books

This is a great way to make connections, develop understanding and make reading even more enjoyable. Start by discussing the front cover and talking about what it reveals and suggests the book could be about. Then talk about what you've been reading and share ideas. You could discuss something that happened that surprised you, or something new that you found out. You could talk about how the book makes you feel and whether it reminds you of anything.

Bring reading to life

You could try cooking a recipe you've read together. Would you recommend it to a friend? Alternatively, play a game where you pretend to be the characters in a book, or discuss an interesting article you've read.

Make reading active

Play games that involve making connections between pictures, objects and words, such as reading about an object and finding similar things in your home. You could organise treasure hunts related to what you're reading. Try creating your child's very own book by using photos from your day and adding captions.

Engage your child in reading in a way that suits them

You know your child best and you'll know the best times for your child to read. For many younger children, short, creative activities may be the way to get them most interested. If English is an additional language, encourage reading in a child's first language, as well as in English. What matters most is that they enjoy it.

Tips for reading a story to your child

If you can find the time beforehand, read the read-aloud book to yourself first, so you can think about how you're going to read it to your child.

On the first reading:

- Make reading aloud feel like a treat. Make it a special quiet time and cuddle up so you can both see the book.
- Show curiosity about what you're going to read: 'This book looks interesting. It's about an angry child. I wonder how angry he gets...'
- Read through the whole story the first time without stopping too much. Let the story weave its own magic.
- Read with enjoyment. If you're not enjoying it, your child won't.
- Read favourite stories over and over again.

On later readings:

- Let your child pause, think about and comment on the pictures.
- If you think your child did not understand something, try to explain: 'Oh! I think what's happening here is that...'
- Chat about the story and pictures: 'I wonder why she did that?'; 'Oh no, I hope she's not going to...'; 'I wouldn't have done that, would you?'
- Link the stories to your own family experiences: 'This reminds me of when ...'
- Link stories to others that your child knows: 'Ah! Do you remember the dragon in? Do you remember what happened to him?'
- Encourage your child to join in with the bits they know.



Please take a look at the videos below so that you can see these ideas and tips in practice which are on our Queensway YouTube channel.
Thanks to Mrs Tyler, Sebastian and Hattie for starring in them!

https://youtu.be/c9ue_LqemqA



[Reading with Sebastian 2](https://youtu.be/c9ue_LqemqA)
youtu.be

<https://youtu.be/5A1YexWFeRM>



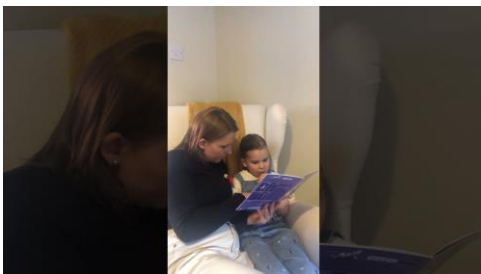
[Reading with Sebastian](https://youtu.be/5A1YexWFeRM)
youtu.be

<https://youtu.be/JLkSgQNoGfg>



[Reading with Hattie 2](https://youtu.be/JLkSgQNoGfg)
youtu.be

https://youtu.be/e_kO6lj5fc8



[Reading with Hattie](https://youtu.be/e_kO6lj5fc8)
youtu.be

If you have any questions or need any support or advice about reading with your child at home, please speak to your child's class teacher who will be happy to help.

Best Wishes

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