



How can I help my child with reading?

We learn to read for all sorts of reasons. We read for pleasure, to learn, to follow directions, to keep in touch with friends and many other reasons. The purpose of reading is to make sense of what we read, whether it be a book, a recipe or a road sign. We need to encourage children to make connections between what they are reading and their own experience, knowledge and ideas.

You can help your child by:

- ✓ Reading to your child as often as you can.
- ✓ Recognising and being proud of your child's successes in reading.
- ✓ Encouraging your child to choose books you can read together.
- ✓ Talking about the books you read and the people, things and animals in them.
- ✓ Drawing attention to the illustrations when reading to your child.
- ✓ Enrolling in your local library.
- ✓ Making sure your child sees members of the family reading.
- ✓ Buying books as presents.
- ✓ Keeping audio files of favourite stories and songs in the car to play on long journeys.
- ✓ Teaching your child nursery rhymes and songs.
- ✓ Selecting books that use repetition to capture the rhythm of language, eg. *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*.
- ✓ Telling stories on the way to the shop, at bath time, at bed time.
- ✓ Letting the child hold the book and turn the pages.
- ✓ Encouraging the child to join in and read the book too.
- ✓ Helping your child to tell the story from the pictures in the book.
- ✓ Talking about everyday print, eg. Signs and advertisements.
- ✓ Accepting and praising your child's attempts to read.
- ✓ Visiting local book shops.
- ✓ Ensuring that there is a wide range of reading materials available, eg. Newspapers, letters, recipes, magazines and puzzle books.
- ✓ Talking about things you have read in newspapers, magazines and books.
- ✓ Reading birthday cards with your child.
- ✓ Talking about the characters, plots and settings of stories.

- ✓ Emphasising with your child the importance of making sense from their reading and encouraging them to take risks and 'have a go' at a word.
- ✓ Occasionally asking some 'why' questions about the story, eg. 'Why do you think the author put that bit in the story?'
- ✓ Pointing out the author's name before reading a book and encouraging your child to read other books by that author.
- ✓ Buying your child games that provide simple instructions to be read and followed.
- ✓ Selecting a simple child's cookery book from the library and planning a cooking session and encouraging your child to read and follow the instructions.
- ✓ Including humorous books when selecting books to read.
- ✓ Encouraging your child to draw and write about books and to write stories of factual information for others to read.
- ✓ Encouraging your child to read for different purposes, eg. Reading biographies and novels, instructions for new appliances, articles from community newspapers, reading to younger brother or sister, finding out more about a topic of interest.

