

Top Reading Tips



Each week we will give you an idea of a story you can read with your child, or listen to on YouTube if you haven't got the book.

Just ten minutes a day, every day, will show your child that you enjoy spending time with them and that reading matters to the whole family.

Help your child link the story to their own experiences. Can they remember when they did something similar?

Try to avoid distractions when you share a book.

Let your child be the storyteller. Let them 'read' the pictures to you, talking about what they see happening on the page. This helps your child think about what the story might be about and look for meaning in what they read. It also helps them practise using story language, like: 'once there was', 'and then', 'the end'.

Encourage your child to act out favourite stories, either taking on a role from the book or using toys to be characters. When you 'play' the story together, your child can practise using story language and events from the book.



Take time to notice what's going on around you and talk about it with your child.

Good conversation starters:

What do you see on this page? What else? I wonder how....?

What do you think is going to happen next? How do you think Feels? Have you ever felt like that? Remember when you ...? What happened?

Choose somewhere away from noise, television and mobile phones.

Even when your child begins to read it is really important to continue reading together.

Teach your child nursery rhymes and songs!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-songs-index/zhwdgwx>

Listen to CBeebies Bedtime stories with your child

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/bedtime-stories>

Reading with your child

Reading for pleasure has a dramatic impact on educational outcomes, wellbeing and social mobility, and is also a huge pleasure in itself.

Sharing a book with a child is fun - it's a time for closeness, laughing and talking together. It can also give children a flying start in life and help them become lifelong readers.

But not everyone is confident with books and reading aloud, so BookTrust has produced some handy tips and advice to help you get the most out of reading together.

Remember, there's no right or wrong way to do it - and it's never too early to start.

Tips for reading with children of any age

- **Set aside some time**
Find somewhere quiet without any distractions - turn off the TV/radio/computer.
- **Ask your child to choose a book**
Sharing books they have chosen shows you care what they think and that their opinion matters. This means they are more likely to engage with the book.
- **Sit close together**
Encourage your child to hold the book themselves and/or turn the pages.
- **Point to the pictures**
If there are illustrations, relate them to something your child knows. Ask them to describe the characters or situation or what will happen next. Encourage them to tell you the story by looking at the pictures.
- **Encourage your child to talk about the book**
Talking about the characters and their dilemmas helps children understand relationships and is an excellent way for you to get to know each other or discuss difficult issues. Give your child plenty of time to respond. Ask them what will happen next, how a character might be feeling or how the book makes them feel.
- **And lastly, above all - make it fun!**
It doesn't matter how you read with a child, as long as you both enjoy the time together. Don't be afraid to use funny voices - children love this!

The link below will take you to some online stories you can listen to with your child. They are great so give them a go!

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/storybooks-and-games/>

The link below will take you to a page that will give you support in how to read with your child, whether you read to them with a storybook, an Ipad, finger puppets etc.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips/Examples-of-how-to-read-with-your-child/>