



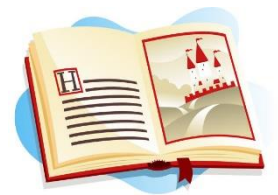
Developing early reading skills

You have an important role to play in helping your child to enjoy books and showing them the fun to be found in reading a book. Sharing books together will encourage your child to want to read.

Why not share a bedtime story each night? Or pick up a book after dinner? A short period of time each day is all it takes to foster a love of books and start your child on their reading journey.

Here are some helpful hints to try at home:

- ✓ Pick a quiet, comfortable spot to read together.
- ✓ Encourage your child to choose a story to read.
- ✓ Look at the cover and talk about it. What can you see? What do you think the story might be about? What do you think will happen in the story?
- ✓ Help your child to hold the book and carefully turn the pages together.
- ✓ Talk about the pictures.
- ✓ Let your child see you pointing to each word as you read the story.
- ✓ Talk about what you think will happen next. How do you think the character feels?
- ✓ Encourage your child to join in with any rhymes or repeated phrases in the story. Don't be afraid to use funny voices to bring the story to life.
- ✓ Share a range of books – stories, poems, information books.



If your child enjoys a story, read it over and over again. Let the book become a starting point to explore other stories.

Enjoy this special time together and give your child lots of praise and encouragement.

