

Reading and Storytelling with your Child

- Reading and storytelling with children promotes brain development and imagination, develops language and emotions, and strengthens relationships.
 - Sometimes you can read. Sometimes you can look at picture books, sing songs or tell stories from your culture.
 - Anytime is a good time for a book or story! Try to share at least one book or story each day.

Top Tips for Sharing Books

- Make a routine and try to share at least one book every day.
- Turn off the TV or radio, put your phone on silent, and find a quiet place to read so your child can hear your voice.
- Sit your child close to you so that they can see the book.
- Try out funny noises and sounds – play and have fun!
- Involve your child by encouraging talk about the pictures, and by repeating familiar words and phrases.
- Let your child choose the books – and be prepared to read your child's favourite books over and over again!
- If you have older children, they can share books with your younger children, or you can all read together. Taking turns, asking questions and listening to the answers are all important skills that will help children when they start learning how to read.

Storytelling and songs

Reading isn't the only way to help with your child's language development.

Telling stories, retelling familiar stories, singing songs and saying rhymes together are also great activities for early literacy skills – and your child will probably have a lot of fun at the same time.

You and your child might like to make up your own stories or share family stories. Your child will learn words and develop language skills from the songs, stories and conversations you share together.

Reading to your child in other languages

You can read, sing and tell stories with your child in whatever language you feel most comfortable speaking.

Using a language, you're comfortable with helps you to communicate more easily. It also helps to make reading, singing and storytelling more fun for you and your child. Your child will still learn that words are made up of different letters, syllables and sounds, and that words usually link to the pictures on the page.

Don't worry if English isn't your child's first language. Being bilingual actually helps your child learn English.

If you like, you can talk about the pictures in the book instead of reading the words. Could you and your child make up a story together? Do what you can and as much as you're comfortable with.

Useful links for further information:

https://www.alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk/images/uploads/pdfs/Reception_PHASE_2.pdf

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/preschoolers/play-learning/literacy-reading-stories/reading-with-preschoolers>

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/help-child-learn-age-4-5/>

