

Why Books ?



- Sharing books with your child is a great way to encourage learning about the world
- **Research shows children who look at books with their parents are more likely to do well at school**
- Talking about the pictures will help your child extend their vocabulary and learn interesting words
- **Watching you read a book will show your child how it is done e.g. which way up the book goes, the direction of the text and how letters make words**
- Sitting with you to read a book will help your child learn to focus and concentrate
- **Enjoying and sharing books will help your child to see them as a source of pleasure and interest**
- You can share books anywhere, any time and a bedtime story is a lovely way to end the day!



How can I help my child to enjoy stories?



- **Try to make time to enjoy books every day**
- Take time to look together at the words and pictures
- **Use your hands and face as well as your voice – your child will love to see you smiling**
- Use animal sounds like woof, growl and hoot – this will really help to bring the story to life
- **Stories can be shared with the whole family so maybe invite other family members to join in?**
- Don't be shy! Relax and enjoy!
If you are having fun, so will your child...

Top Tips For Sharing Books With Your Child



- Sit close together when sharing a book and encourage your child to hold the book independently and/or turn the pages
- Don't be afraid to use funny voices – it's a great way to make your child giggle and will help your child understand the different characters
- Don't be afraid to sing either – your child won't care whether or not you sing in tune or know the words! Knowing songs and rhymes will help your child learn to read faster...
- When you talk to your child about what's going on in a book, give them plenty of time to respond.
- Try to ask questions that don't require just yes or no answers. For example, ask them what they think will happen next or ask about how a character might be feeling
- After the story is finished help your child remember what happened at the beginning, middle and end
- Sharing books isn't just about the words - point to the pictures and discuss something similar in your child's life
- Lastly – make it fun! It doesn't matter how you read with your child, as long as you both enjoy the time together...

