Reading with your child at home

Parents

How to read a story to your child

On the first reading:

* Make reading aloud feel like a treat. Make it a special quiet time and cuddle up so you can both see the book.

• Show curiosity about what you’re going to read: ‘This book looks interesting. It’s about an angry child. I wonder how angry he gets…’

 • Read through the whole story the first time without stopping too much. Let the story weave its own magic.

 • Read with enjoyment. If you’re not enjoying it, your child won’t. Read favourite stories over and over again.

 On later readings:

• Let your child pause, think about and comment on the pictures.

 • If you think your child did not understand something, try to explain: ‘Oh! I think what’s happening here is that…’

• Chat about the story and pictures: ‘I wonder why she did that?’; ‘Oh no, I hope she’s not going to…’; ‘I wouldn’t have done that, would you?’

 • Link the stories to your own family experiences: ‘This reminds me of when …’

• Link stories to others that your child knows: ‘Ah! Do you remember the dragon in ….? Do you remember what happened to him?’

• Encourage your child to join in with the bits they know.

• Avoid asking questions to test what your child remembers.

 • Avoid telling children that reading stories is good for them