

# Supporting your **child** with their **reading**

top tips for parents and carers



Reading with your child gives you special time together and helps develop your child's language skills and imagination, creates happy memories and a lifelong love of reading.

## **How can I help my child with their reading?**

Your child will usually bring two books home from school. One is for your child to read to you. It has been carefully chosen by the teacher so that your child can work out all the words. This will help them learn to read.

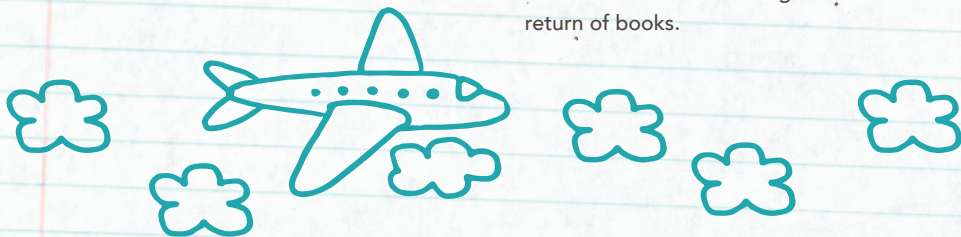
The other book, a read-aloud book, has words your child may not be able to read yet. It is for you to read, enjoy and talk about together with your child.

## **How you read a story to your child really helps**

If you can find the time beforehand, read the read-aloud book to yourself first, so you can think about how you're going to read it with your child.

## **Read and enjoy your favourite stories over and over again!**

And.... don't forget to visit your local library where you will find lots of books for children and an exciting programme of free events and activities for everyone. The library service is a free service; free to join, free to borrow books and no charges for the late return of books.



# The first time you read the book with your child...

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

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

Show curiosity about what you're going to read: 'This book looks interesting. It's about a forgetful child. I wonder what he forgets...'

Read with enjoyment. If you're not enjoying it, your child won't.

# The next time you read the book...

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

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

If you think your child did not understand something, try to explain: 'Oh! I think what's happening here is ...'

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

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?'

Avoid asking questions to test what your child remembers.

Link the stories to your shared experiences: 'This reminds me of when ...'

Avoid telling children that reading stories is good for them.



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