**The importance of reading cannot be emphasised enough in young children, and we as Practitioners and Parents need to make every day reading a high priority.**

Many studies show that toddlers and pre-schoolers who are read to every day have a larger vocabulary than those who aren’t read to at all.

Not only does reading enhance a child’s vocabulary and help them to understand how to read and write but reading aloud to children also helps them to understand different topics about the world and everyday life.

The more you read to your children, the more knowledge they absorb, and knowledge is important in all aspects of life. There have been [many studies](https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/05/170504083146.htm) that show reading to babies and toddlers gives them a head start and helps to prepare them for school later down the line. After all, reading with your children gives them the skills needed for when they start to read themselves.

It is important that children learn to follow words across the page from left to right and turn pages which are pre-reading skills that benefit children and help them to become better readers later on. Children who enjoy reading not only do better in language and literacy subjects, but in other subjects as well.

**Reading is important to develop language skills**

While you may speak with your children every day, the vocabulary you use is often limited and repetitive. Reading books ensures that your child is exposed to vocabulary on different topics, which means they hear words or phrases which they may not hear otherwise in their day to day lives.

The more words they know, the better. For [children who speak more than one language](https://bilingualkidspot.com/2017/03/09/tips-boost-minority-language-bilingual-children/), reading is an easy way to help their language skills and is important to develop their fluency. These skills alone show the importance of reading.

### Reading together encourages a thirst for knowledge

Reading to your children leads to questions about the book and the information within. It gives you a chance to speak about what is happening and use this as a learning experience. It may also develop an interest in different cultures or languages. There is nothing better than seeing a child who loves to learn.

### Reading develops a child’s imagination and creativity

One of the great benefits of reading with children is watching their growing imagination. When we really engage in a book, we imagine what the characters are doing. We imagine the setting as reality. Seeing the excitement in a child’s eyes when they know what is going to be on the next page or having them guess what is going to happen is one of the most amazing things to experience.

### Reading books with children helps to develop empathy

The importance of reading can also be shown when children develop empathy. When a child can put himself into the story this can happen. They identify with characters, and they feel what they are feeling. Children begin to understand and relate to emotions.

### Reading together helps to create a bond

There’s nothing better than sitting with your little one and reading a book or a [bedtime story](https://bilingualkidspot.com/2016/06/28/bedtime-stories-read-to-children/) together. Spending time with one another, reading, and talking, can bring parents closer to their children.