



READING WITH YOUR CHILD

Tips for making book reading an interactive experience



Research shows us that children with speech and language difficulties are at greater risk of having difficulty when learning to read and spell. We also know that reading with your child increases their chances of developing their literacy skills. Reading *with* your child and using 'interactive' strategies can help develop their vocabulary, thinking skills, awareness of spoken and written language, print concepts, alphabet knowledge as well as their conversational skills.

Tips for reading with your child

- Talk about the pictures in the book rather than reading the words alone.
- Make comments to your child about what you see or hear when you're reading. For example, *"Look at the cat. The cat is big, orange and fluffy"* or *"cat and mat rhyme, they sound the same."*
- Ask open ended questions to encourage discussion about the story. For example, *"what do you see?"* or *"tell me about the..."*
- Ask close ended questions to talk about specific objects or events. For example, *"what colour is..."*, *"what shape is..."* *"which word rhymes with..."*
- Have your child make predictions. Ask them what they think will happen next or how a certain character is feeling.
- Feedback your child's responses and expand on them. For example:
Child: Monkey
Parent: Monkey. It's a big monkey. The monkey is eating a banana.
- Link events in the story to your child's personal experiences. For example, *"Charlie is playing on the swing. You have a swing. Do you like playing on your swing?"*
- Encourage your child to point to words as you read them.
- Talk about the letters and sounds within words. For example, finding letters in the text which start with the same letter in your child's name, talk about the shapes of letters (e.g. *"s is the snakey letter and sound"*) or talk about the sounds at the start and ends of words (e.g. *"bat starts with a /b/, what other words start with /b/?"*)