

Sharing Books

Introduction

This factsheet explores how you can make the most of sharing a wide range of books with your child.

[Take a look at PACEY President Penny Tassoni's top 5 story telling tips:](#)



Key points

Sharing books and stories with children helps their learning development, language and communication.

Reading to your child every day gives them the best start to life.

Children learn so much from sharing books with adults. Not only are they learning vital skills for later reading and writing, but sharing books also helps with talking, listening and communication skills as well as encouraging imagination, curiosity, and arousing emotions.

Sharing a book will not only give your child the opportunity to hear words spoken, either through poetry and rhyme, story or non-fiction, but it will encourage communication as you talk about what's happening in the book.

Making books available to children, sharing them, telling stories and talking with children from birth is fundamental to the early year's frameworks in both England and Wales.

Books offer a structure that can be helpful when talking about particular situations or emotions with your child, for example, jealousy of a new sibling, or difficulties with friendships. You can make particular books available that will help a child make sense of a situation such as moving house or starting school.

What does this mean for me?

Babies and young children love listening to the sound of your voice so don't be embarrassed about reading to them.

Stories provide you with a structure to help you talk aloud to your child and overcome any inhibitions you may have.

Don't read for too long as children have short attention spans, little and often is best.

There is lots of support available for parents who struggle with their literacy skills, don't be afraid to ask for help.

Have fun!

What can you do to support your child?

Talk about the pictures, the words, emotions aroused, situations and characters, and use book language for example, front cover, back cover, title, author, illustrations.

Give children your full attention as you talk with them by using direct eye contact to show that you are really listening. Turn off the TV, radio and your mobile phone!

Use funny voices, props and music to bring the story alive.

Make books for your child with pictures of family members, pets, special friends and special occasions such as birthdays or holidays that they can recognise and talk about.

Children who cannot yet write will love seeing their words as a book if you write down the stories and words they tell you. They will also take pride in illustrating their own books, 'reading' their story to you, and listening while you read the story they created.

It's never too early to share books with children, give your baby access to books on journeys, in prams and throughout the day. Let them choose which book they'd like to explore, show them how to hold it the right way up and to turn the pages, and importantly, talk about what's in the book, what they can see and feel.

Visit your local library, many offer regular story sessions that you can join in with.

You may also like to make story sacks for your favourite books. A story sack is a large cloth bag with a children's book and other supporting materials inside. Your child will love the surprise element of what's coming out of the bag next. You could include a cd or dvd of the story, related non-fiction books, models and objects from the story, activities or games related to the story.

Share books with your child that they may bring home from their setting.

Statutory Guidance

Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2014

www.foundationyears.org.uk/eyfs-statutory-framework/

The Foundation Phase – Framework for Children’s Learning for 3 to 7-year-olds in Wales

<http://learning.wales.gov.uk/docs/learningwales/publications/130424-framework-for-childrens-learning-en.pdf>

Additional resources

[Booktrust](#) has a website dedicated to children’s books, including recommended book lists and information and resources for National Children’s Book Week

[World Book Day](#)

[National Literacy Trust](#)

[Talk to Your Baby](#) is a campaign run by the National Literacy Trust to encourage parents and carers to talk more to children from birth to three.

[Bookstart](#) is a national scheme that delivers free books to young children.

[Book touch](#) – for children who are blind or partially sighted

[Bookshine](#) – for children who are deaf