

Kindergarten to Year 3: A quick guide to helping your child with reading

Reading and talking about stories are wonderful ways to show your child how enjoyable and important reading is – and a great way to spend time together.

Things to remember

- Set aside a special time for reading together. Avoid any distractions such as the TV. You or someone in your family should aim to read with your child every day.
- Ask your child to choose what they want to read with you. Your child will be more focused and will learn to love reading if they can choose a book they like.
- Read a range of materials. Books are not the only source of reading material you can use. Read comics, poems, riddles and jokes, magazines, recipe books and even the TV guide.
- Encourage everyone in your family to read with your child including older brothers and sisters, and grandparents.
- Have lots of things to read at home and don't forget to take things to read when you go on holiday.



When reading

- Encourage your child to join in and have a go at reading the book. Don't object if they want to hear the same stories over and over.
- When reading aloud, follow the words with your finger, point to pictures and talk together about the story and what is happening. Change your voice to show emotion and excitement for different characters.
- Point out key words in the story and explain words your child may not know.
- Every now and then stop and ask *What do you think will happen next?* Occasionally ask *why* questions about the story.
- Visit your local library and let your child choose the books they would like to read.
- If your child loses interest in a book, put it aside and let them choose another one.

After reading

- Talk about the story and encourage your child to re-read parts they liked.
- Ask your child to retell the story to you or another family member.
- Talk about the people and places in the book. *Who was your favourite person? Where did the story take place?*
- In books with lots of facts, ask your child what they learnt.

Remember to praise your child. If your child does not know the answers, allow a little time to work it out. Give hints and clues.

