

SHARED READING FOR PLEASURE AS A FAMILY

Some Hints and Tips

“Reading for pleasure is the single most important thing that will make a child successful in life” UNESCO

Sharing stories, songs and rhymes with your child is a wonderful way to help develop their language skills, whilst providing an imaginative, intimate space where you can connect with each other and have fun.

The
Reader

CONNECT
REALISE
CHANGE



Getting Ready

- Before you read with your child, find time, if you can, to read the story or poem yourself first.
- What jumps out at you? What surprises you? This is the first stage of getting ready. Remembering the way you feel when you first read the story can help you make it more fun for your child.
- Are you sitting comfortably? Get comfy. Try to sit close to your child and hold the book between you.

What's it like to read aloud together?

- Take your time. Hold the book so that both of you can see. Take your time really looking at the words and the pictures.
- Enjoy it! If you are smiling and laughing, so will your children.
- Repeat Repeat Repeat. Children love to read their favourite stories, and sing their favourite songs, again and again - and again.

Making a Connection

- Pay attention to the cover of the book. *What can we see? What might the book be about?*
- Encourage your child to turn the pages themselves.
- Use the pictures to explore how a character is feeling – *is that a sad face? A happy face?*
- Link the pictures to other senses – *can you moo like a cow? Hissss like a snake?*
- Show your feelings about the book: *I liked that What did you think of that? I loved the bit where... Which bit did you like best? What do you make of this?*

Find your voice

- Be prepared to put in lots of energy and to make yourself look a bit silly! Experiment with volume control: would a whisper work well! Or a shout bring the meaning out? Have a go at using a different voice for each character. What do you need to do with your voice to bring out sadness or joy?

TOP TIP Use a nursery rhymes sack. (could be a pillow case) Fill it with props that link to nursery rhymes – rubber ducks, sock puppet humpty dumpty, a spider. Share your favourite childhood rhyme or poem with your child. All the rhymes you remember still work...Sing a Song of Sixpence, Hey Diddle, Diddle and Hickory Dickory Dock.

Get in touch and be part of the story:

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