Reading with your child

3-4 years

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Inspire a love of reading

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Sharing a book with a child is fun – it's a time for closeness, laughing and talking together.

Reading with your child can help them develop, strengthen your bond and get them ready for school.

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers

Spending 10 minutes a day reading to your child helps them develop social and emotional skills and become confident, happy learners.

This booklet is full of tips and ideas on how to get the most out of sharing books together – we hope you enjoy it!

From,
All of us at BookTrust

Top tips for reading together

- **Find somewhere quiet away from noise, TV and mobile phones.**
- **Cuddle up together or get brothers and sisters to join in and enjoy stories and rhymes together.**
- **Make animal noises or sound effects – these help to bring the story to life and will make you both laugh!**

- **Ask questions when you're reading together such as:**
  'What can you see on this page?'
  'How do you think the characters feel?'
- **Try asking your child to tell the story. They can 'read' the pictures to you and talk about what's happening on the page.**
- **If you feel comfortable, try making funny faces or using character voices – these always make children giggle!**

Look at the pictures and start talking about them

- **Can you find a dinosaur or a rabbit? What else can you see?**
- **How many bananas are there?**
- **What games are the children playing?**

Remember: talking with your child will help them learn more words

Let's choose some books!

It's OK to read the same book again and again because familiar books are comforting and build confidence.

But if you're ready for a change, use our Bookfinder to search for books about things your child enjoys. Here you can find book ideas for children of all ages, from babies to teenagers.

booktrust.org.uk/books

The next page also has some great new book ideas to get you started.

Some great books to get you started

Shark in the Park
Nick Sharratt
(Picture Corgi)
'Timothy Pope, Timothy Pope, what can you see through your telescope?' Is it really a shark in the park he can see?
Your child will love joining in the words and actions in this fun book.

Oi Frog!
Kes Gray & Jim Field
(Hodder Children's Books)
These are the rules: cats sit on mats, hares sit on stairs, mules sit on stools... but Frog doesn't want to sit on a log! A hilarious rhyming picture book that will get you and your little one giggling.

The Sheep Who Hatched an Egg
Gemma Merino
(Macmillan Children's Books)
Lola the sheep spends hours every day looking after her wonderful wool, so she's very upset when one day she loses it. But when her wool grows back wild, she gets a delightful surprise... A lovely story about how friendship is more important than good hair.

We are Family
Patricia Hegarty, illustrated by Ryan Wheatcroft
(Caterpillar Books)
All families are different, but they all have one thing in common: love. A beautiful book in which most children will be able to see themselves or a family like their own.

Learn through having fun

- **Play a guessing game when you're out and about together. Ask your child what numbers or letters they can see on buses, posters and signs.**
- **Let your child enjoy making marks on paper with pencils or crayons. There's no right or wrong way to draw a picture – this is the very first stage of writing and drawing.**
- **Encourage your child to ask lots of questions – it's one of the most important skills a learner needs!**

Looking for more ideas?

- **Visit your local library where you can borrow books for free. See if they run a Rhymetime or Storytime session where you can meet other families and enjoy rhymes together!**
- **Ask your health visitor for ideas on how you can support your child's development by sharing books together.**
- **Find great books online with BookTrust! Our website has lots more tips ideas for books to enjoy as well as games and online storybooks. booktrust.org.uk**

BookTrust is the UK's largest children's reading charity. We are dedicated to getting children reading.

Illustrations by Daniel Taylor

Charity number 313343

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