

A Guide for Parents...

Read with Me... 2 to 3 Years

Why Read?

At this age, children are beginning to connect the idea of stories with books. Reading together will introduce your child to new words and increase their vocabulary. It's also a lovely way to relax and spend time together.

Top Reading Tips:

- Use books in a variety of situations like in the car, in the bath, in the garden or in the kitchen.
- Try using a cookery book when you're making cakes with your child.
- Turn off the TV and radio as too much background noise can be distracting for both of you.
- Look at books with flaps to lift and sound buttons to push.
- Read stories with lots of repetition as your child will like to join in. Leave a gap if there is a phrase they know well so they can say it.
- Sing and say lots of rhymes and songs and do the actions together.
- Read some books that are not stories so you can talk about facts, especially if your child is interested in something like animals or transport.
- If you're telling your child a story about something that really happened, like when you went to the seaside, see what they can remember and ask them to help you to tell it in the right order.
- Make books about things your child is interested in by cutting pictures out of magazines together.
- Make a visit to your local library part of your regular family routine.

What I Like...

- To interact with books by lifting flaps or pressing sound buttons.
- To hear about myself in a story that you've made up or that really happened.
- To hear familiar stories again and again.
- To be independent and choose my own books.

What I Can Do...

- Look at books on my own and turn the pages myself.
- Recognise familiar books by what is on the cover.
- Tell stories to myself by looking at the pictures in a book.
- Listen to longer stories and join in with ones I know well.
- Point to pictures in a book when you say "show me" because I can understand lots of words.
- Connect real objects with pictures in books.

A Guide for Parents...

Read with Me... 3 to 4 Years

Why Read?

At this stage your child is beginning to understand how stories work and that the words on the page mean something. Reading together will help them start to make sense of those words and recognise some letters.

Top Reading Tips:

- Use books in a variety of situations and match them to what your child is doing. You could have a book about transport with your child's box of cars.
- Read stories with lots of repetition as your child will like to join in and tell you what is going to happen next.
- Point to words as you read them.
- Make up voices for the different characters in a story.
- When you finish a story, ask your child to tell you what happened. You could draw pictures together or dress up and act it out.
- Make books about things your child is interested in by cutting pictures out of magazines together.
- Make up stories about your child, or about when you were little, or about your child's favourite toy.
- Read poetry and stories that rhyme and pause so your child can say the rhyming words.
- Let your child see you reading.
- Point out words and phrases on shops and signs when you are out and about. Children can recognise familiar words really quickly.

What I Like...

- To hear about myself in a story.
- To catch you out when you make a mistake in a story I know well.
- To find information in books about things I am interested in.

What I Can Do...

- Listen to longer stories.
- Join in with stories I know well and talk about what is happening.
- Tell you what might happen next in a story.
- Answer questions like "What's happening in the picture?".
- Retell stories I know well.
- Look at books independently, holding them the correct way up and turning pages carefully.