

Reading with your child

Practise reading the story before you read it to the children. Think about the exact actions and expressions you will use so children can join in with you. Show your love for books as you read- enthusiasm is catching!

1. Make reading to your child feel like a treat. Introduce each new book with excitement.

2. Make it a special quiet time away from the hustle and bustle of the rest of the day. Sit closely so your child can see the book easily.

3. Show curiosity in what you're going to read:

'We're Going on a Bear Hunt', Ooo, I wonder if they will find a real bear.

4. Read the whole story the first time through without stopping too much. If you think your child might not understand something, model an explanation.

Oh, I think what's happening here is that ...

5. Chat about the story:

I wonder what they're going to do now?

Oh no, I hope he's not going to ...

I wouldn't have done that, would you?

6. Whatever you do, avoid asking questions to test what they remember.

7. Link stories to your own and your child's experiences and link these experiences to other stories.

This story reminds me of when I had to squelch through lots of sticky mud when I went camping.

8. Read favourite stories over and over again. Get your child to join in with the bits that they know. Build the suspense each time, hesitating so they can jump in before you say the word.

9. Read with enthusiasm. Don't be embarrassed to try out different voices. Your children will love it.

10. Read with enjoyment. If you're not enjoying it, they won't.