

Other activities to develop reading skills.

- Look out for signs and symbols in the environment.
- Build jigsaws, they help children discriminate shapes.
- Sing Nursery Rhymes and Counting Songs.
- Play 'I Spy'.
- Sound talk simple words. **c-a-t** and blend the word together.
- Make up sound effects for a story.
- Look out for rhyming patterns.
- Alliteration– Make up silly character names that start with the same sound. (Mig Mog Mully Moo)
- Listen to audio books or watch eBooks.



Useful websites:

- ◇ www.booktrust.org.uk
- ◇ www.literacytrust.org.uk
- ◇ www.oxfordowl.co.uk
- ◇ www.bookstart.org.uk
- ◇ www.puffin.co.uk
- ◇ www.phonicsplay.co.uk
- ◇ www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/stories
- ◇ www.lovereadng4kids.co.uk
- ◇ <https://collins.co.uk/pages/revision-collins-4-parents>
- ◇ <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/libraries-archives/>



**Top Tips for Parents:
How to Get Your Child Excited About Books!**



What comes before Phonics?

Becoming literate with ease and success depends upon a range of knowledge, skills, understandings and attitudes that are developed before, and underpin, explicit, formal, literacy teaching.

- **Spoken language**– have a rich and broad vocabulary base. So talk, talk and more talk.
- **Physical activity** -Children need to develop a range of physical skills to be able to engage effectively in learning, including being able to sit still and focus.
- **Be able to think and talk about language** – share poems, tell jokes, make up words, discuss words.
- **Recognise that print carries meaning**-writes cards, point out instructions and labels.
- **The ability to symbolise**-recognising symbols and logos around them eg. traffic signs, shop logos, food and toy trademarks.
- **Phonological awareness**-begins and flows from the ability to hear, recognise and label environmental sounds. Sing rhymes, play sound lotto, go on listening walks.

Why share books?

Research proves that children who enjoy reading do better at school in all subjects.

It helps children to:

- Understand the world around them.
- Develop social and emotional skills.
- Widen their range of vocabulary
- Build confidence with communication.
- Strengthen their bond with you and other family members.

What should I read?

- A range of picture books, comics, non-fiction, poems and rhymes.
- Read the same book over and over again. Familiar books are comforting and build confidence.
- Choose new books together. Find something your child enjoys and links to their interests.
- Visit the library. (If you find a book your child loves, buy it.)

How should I read?

For most of us, reading aloud isn't part of everyday life, so it may feel a bit daunting. But don't let this put you off– your child will be enjoying themselves too much to criticise your performance!

- Find a quiet comfortable place, cuddle up.
- Turn the T.V. off.
- Bring the characters to life– talk about the characters and what's happening.
- Try to use different voices for characters.
- Use facial expressions.
- Emphasize repeated words and phrases (so your child picks them up).
- Allow your child to predict/say the rhyming word at the end of a sentence.
- Ask questions about what might happen next.

How can I make the experience even more exciting?

- Make simple puppets, so your child can act out the stories.
- Make stories up and tell them together.
- Take photographs and make books about your child's experiences.
- Always read a story at bedtime. Children love routine and it's a relaxing way to go to sleep.
- Let your child tell the story (if you've read it many times, they will be able to 'read' it to you).