



## Reading with young children

*Children, who are read to frequently at a young age, become interested in sounds and language in a way that prepares them for reading in later life.*

- Try to share books as often as possible.
- Say the 'catchy' bits together, e.g. 'run, and run, as fast as you can', 'he huffed and he puffed'.
- Teach children rhymes and songs.
- Read favourite books again and again—you may have had enough but young children love familiarity.
- Make puppets by cutting figures out of card or mismatched socks and use these as props for a story. You could also use toys and teddy bears.
- Take photos of children and of familiar object or places and use these to make a book about the child.
- Label familiar objects around the home with post-it notes or signs.
- Make story sacks and story maps to assist children in retelling stories.

## Keeping them interested in reading

*Many children see reading as 'work' and something that they have to do. The best readers love reading and will do it any-where. Inspiring children to read means thinking differently about what it is that they read.*

- Visit the school and local library with children.
- Provide comics and picture books, ask children to make up the story if there aren't any words.
- Read a variety of books, funny ones, short ones, real life stories, poems and non-fiction.
- Read websites together.
- After reading a story or watching a video encourages children to draw a picture of an important event in the story and tell you about it.
- Some children find it really hard to 'keep going' when they are reading. Why not take it in turns to read a page each. That way they get a rest and they still get to enjoy what is being read. This works well with older children reading chapter books.

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## Comprehension

*Good readers understand what they have read. They are able to sum up, predict what may happen next and give an opinion about what they have read.*

- Make a scrap book with your children about their favourite star, group or team. Let them cut pictures out of magazines and papers and write their own captions—they could research their topic using other books.
- Buy a book of crosswords and word searches and try to solve them. Make up your own puzzles to try out on other family members and friends.
- With children, find different types of non-fiction text in the library or on the book self to compare them. Identify what they are about and list the different features.
- Cut up a cartoon strip from a newspaper and get children to put it back together again
- Ask children to give their opinion about the judges or contestants when watching talent shows like the X Factor. Can they give reasons to back up their point of view?
- Use pictures of front covers and get children to have a go at predicting what the book is about, who the characters are and where the story is set.