



How to read a story to your child

If you can find the time beforehand, read the read-aloud book to yourself first, so you can think about how you are going to read it to your child.

On the first reading:

- Make reading aloud feel like a treat. Make it a special quiet time and cuddle up so you can both see the book.
- Show curiosity about what you are going to read: 'This book looks interesting. It's about an angry child. I wonder how angry he gets...'
- Read through the whole story the first time without stopping too much. Let the story weave its own magic.
 - Read with enjoyment. If you are not enjoying it, your child won't. Read favourite stories over and over again.

On later readings:

- Let your child pause, think about and comment on the pictures.
 - If you think your child did not understand something, try to explain: 'Oh! I think what's happening here is that...'
 - Chat about the story and pictures: 'I wonder why she did that?'; 'Oh no, I hope she's not going to...'; 'I wouldn't have done that, would you?'
- Link the stories to your own family experiences: 'This reminds me of when ...'
- Link stories to others that your child knows: 'Ah! Do you remember the dragon in? Do you remember what happened to him?'
 - Encourage your child to join in with the bits they know.
 - Avoid asking questions to test what your child remembers.
 - Avoid telling children that reading stories is good for them.