

Talking Tips

Families **talk** now

Looking at books with your baby...

Even the smallest baby can enjoy sharing a book. Don't worry if your baby only wants to look at one or two pictures or pages. Just enjoy your time together.

Point to the pictures and name what you see. Use different sounds and voices for different characters. Your baby will love the sound of your voice and they will begin to learn everyday words.

Use different types of books such as noisy, textured, pop up and picture books.

You will be giving your child the very best start for talking and listening.

Sharing books with toddlers...

When you read stories and talk about pictures in books, your child hears and learns more words. You don't have to stick to the story or read every word.

Remember at this stage little and often is best, don't worry if they don't make it to the end of the story!

Make noises and funny voices to match the pictures, for example say "sss" if there is a snake picture or wobble if there is a wobbly jelly in the story.

Don't worry if your child always chooses the same book. It is good to share favourite stories again and again. Repetition helps children to understand and remember the language they hear.

Stories are great as part of a bedtime routine to get your little one calm and settled for bed.

Reading to pre-school children...

Your child will begin to develop their imagination as they hear about different types of characters and places.

They may begin to make up their own stories that you can develop together.

Books can help young children to understand the world and deal with new situations a little better. You can share books with your child to help them learn about new things - like starting a new nursery or the arrival of a new baby.

Why books?

Research shows that children who are exposed to plenty of language through books and conversations at home do better when they get to school. You can take a book anywhere! Keep one under the buggy or take one on the bus.

Visit your local library for different books, it's FREE to join!

It's never too early to start sharing stories.

Make reading a household habit!

