

# Parents' Guide to Early Literacy Development

## Sharing Books



**As a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher and therefore have the most important role to play in helping your child learn to read.**

**Sharing books together is invaluable. Please take every opportunity to share books with your child. Borrow books from your Nursery, join the Storysack library, and the local library.**

**Read with your child as often as possible, preferably once a day.**



Pick a time when you are both relaxed and comfortable. Talk about the various parts of the book: the author, the title, the illustrator, the front cover, the illustrations, the characters, print, words, letters etc

Discuss the illustrations and ask your child questions as to what is happening in each picture



Ask your child to predict and discuss what she/ he thinks the book is about.

Discuss the story asking what may happen next.

Discuss the characters, asking which character your child likes best and why.

Whenever possible, relate the story to your own child's experience and those of your family.

As you read the story, point to the words, following the direction of print with your finger.

You may choose to dramatise the story.

Finally, you may ask your child to retell the story in their own words.

Another good discussion would be to ask what was your child's favourite part of the story and why.

Share a wide variety of books with your child: picture books, rhyming books, nonfiction books, poetry and rhyme books, activity books, etc.

If your child enjoys hearing the same story over and over again, don't worry as this is very common and can be an important stage in understanding that print never changes and stories remain the same, no matter how many times they are read. It may well be that your child memorises the whole book and can "read" along with you. This again is an important stage in reading development. It does mean however that you cannot ever skip a page if you are in a hurry!

Encourage your child to join in with you as you read together, or read alternate pages.

**Reading with your child for ten minutes a day will develop a desire in your child to read independently. Reading together has an enormous number of benefits. It greatly helps language development, understanding of grammar, syntax and writing styles, enhances vocabulary, greatly helps develop comprehension skills, imparts knowledge about our world, allows imagination to grow, helps children in talking and listening skills, and most important of all it can be fun!**

**Enjoy this time and remember to give lots of praise.**



*For further information, or ideas, please contact your Nursery staff or Tricia Di Duca (Home Link Teacher)*