

## Supporting your child with their reading in the early years



# Introduction

Reading with your child is one of the most valuable things that you can do to support them as they learn new words and find out about the world around them.

The following hints and tips will help you support your child in their reading journey.

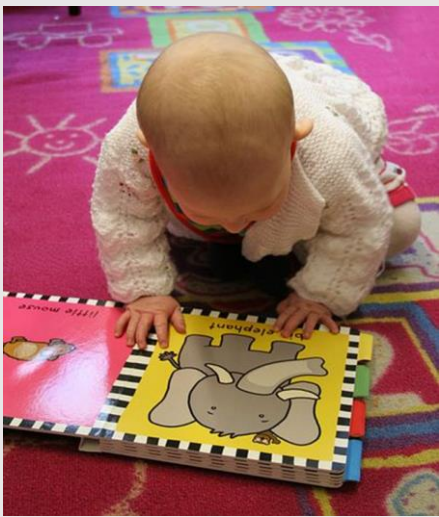
## Babies and toddlers

Babies and toddlers will...

- Hold books and look at the pictures in them
- Enjoy being read to
- Start to have favourite books and nursery rhymes

You can help your child by...

- Letting them hold the book as you read the story
- Talking about what is happening and who you can see in the pictures
- Letting your baby point or tell you things as you share their favourite stories



## Two year olds

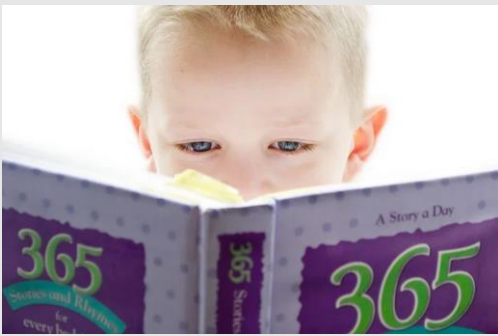
Two year olds will...

- Have some favourite rhymes and songs
- Start to join in with their favourite stories
- Tell you the missing word in stories and rhymes they know very well

You can help your child by...

- Letting them use toys to help them tell you stories that you have shared together
- When you read stories that your child knows really well, stop at different parts and let them tell you the missing word





## Three and four year olds

Three and four year olds will...

- Recognise when words start the same, like 'big boat' and 'tall tower'
- Clap their hands to match the sounds in words, like 2 claps for "he-llo"
- Listen and join in when you read books and sing rhymes together
- Know that stories have beginnings and endings and sometimes can guess how the story will end
- Listen to longer stories and talk about them
- Talk about the places and people in stories and the important things that are happening
- Recognise their own name and words that are special to them

You can help your child by...

- Set up a pretend shop where your child can try read the labels on the packets and boxes
- Point out words all around
- Read to your child as often as you can



# Reading to your child

Top tips...

## Tip 1: reading together

- Try leaving a blank at the end of a sentence for your child to finish.
- Ask your child to tell you about what is happening in the story and what might happen next.



## Tip 2: Ask your child questions about the book

- Try asking 'w' questions-who, what, where and why?
- Ask questions that don't have a yes or no answer like-what do you think? Or how do you feel?





## Tip 3: Link reading to the real world

- Try to link things that happen in stories to your real life. This can help children to understand ideas in the book. If you were reading Cinderella you might talk about how a ball is a bit like a birthday party.
- Use lots of new words from stories with your child and encourage them to use new words too.



## Tip 4: Have fun

- Show your child that you enjoy reading to them. Use silly voices and encourage your child to join in with the parts they know.
- Take your time and be patient. If your child wants to hear the same story lots of time that's fine, if they have had enough after a few pages that's fine too.



## Tip 5: Recognising print

- Point out words in books as you read to your child. Help them to understand the difference between pictures and print.
- Look for letters all around-on food packaging, leaflets, road signs and clothes labels.



# Online reading resources for young children



<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/storybooks-and-games/>

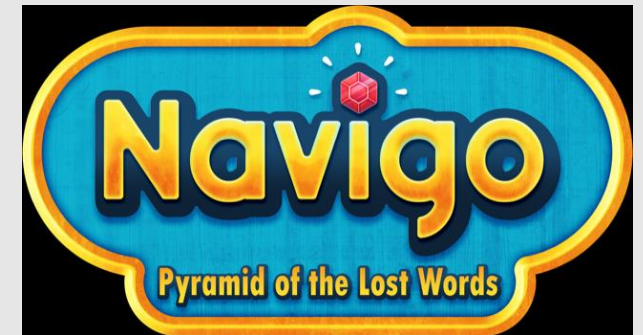


<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/stories>



<https://www.mamalisa.com/>

## Reading apps for under 5s





[https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2015/03/4Children\\_ParentsGuide\\_2015\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2015/03/4Children_ParentsGuide_2015_WEB.pdf)

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