

Got kids? Get reading!

get on

Ideas for parents and carers

Why should I read with my kids?

They'll do better at school: babies who are read to begin reading earlier.

How can I find time?

Reading can go on any time, anywhere - on a bus or car ride or in the doctor's waiting room. Always take a book with you, just in case.

How do I know what they'll like?

Start off by choosing books that you like - you'll probably have to read them again and again! Pretty soon you'll have an idea of the kind of thing your kids like.

What's the best way to read with them?

Start as soon as possible and make it fun to share - sit your child on your knee and look at books together.



Five tips for storytelling

With babies

Choose books with large simple pictures and catchy words or rhymes

Point at the pictures and say what they are



With toddlers

Look at the pictures and talk about them

Be prepared to use silly voices! Children love it when parents use different voices

Choose books with plenty of repetition, and encourage your child to join in

What if I'm not good at reading myself?

You don't have to be. Your child will love to hear your voice, and won't know if you're making mistakes.

Try a story told mainly in pictures and talk about what's going on in the pictures.



You might want to join a course to help you get better at reading and writing. That'll help you help your children, too. Skills for Life and Get on courses are free. They're held in local centres at times to suit families.

You can also gain a qualification that could be useful for work or further learning.



Where can I go next?

Reading

Your local library is a great place to start.

They have wonderful books for children and don't mind how noisy or excited they get.

Lots of libraries hold story and rhyme time sessions. Ask for details.

Children and even babies can join, and best of all – it's FREE!

Learning

Talk to the family learning worker at the children's centre about family learning courses and taster sessions.

Pick up a leaflet in the children's centre or library about local courses.

Or ring the learndirect helpline on 0800 100 900 for advice and information about free courses available locally.

Organisations and practitioners can order further copies of this free leaflet by calling the DfES distributors on 0845 602 2260 and quoting reference number GKGR/P.

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