

# THE BENEFITS OF SHARING BOOKS

(it's so much more than learning to read!)



Repetition  
Repetition  
Repetition



## BUILDING AN INCREASED VOCABULARY

Hearing the same words over and over again will enable them to add these words to their vocabulary.

## WORD DEVELOPMENT

Most children really enjoy reading the same book over and over again. This can benefit your child by allowing them to recognise familiar words and learn the meaning of them.

## DEVELOPING PRINT AWARENESS

Looking at the same text regularly will help your child to recognise letter shapes and whole words.



## ASK OPEN QUESTIONS

Use a range of questions that encourage more than one word answers. Ask who, where, when and where questions as you read the story and talk about the pictures



## MAKING CONNECTIONS

When sharing a book, talk about a time when your child has experienced something similar to an event in the book.

Talk about other stories you have shared.

Try providing an experience that links to the book you're reading e.g. dressing up as a character or making a potion or castle.



## MAKING PREDICTIONS

Encourage your child to make predictions e.g.

What do you think this book will be about?

What do you think will happen next?

With the Summer Holidays approaching, it's a time to step away from the more formal learning that you have been helping your child with at home. But as parents, we all want to do everything we can to help our child be ready to return to school when their time arrives.

Research shows that if a child has well developed and confident language skills, they will be able to get to most out of their time at school. They will:

- find it easier to understand all the words that are used in their lessons,
- be able to use more information in their answers to questions and in their writing,
- be able to make friends and maintain friendships.

Most children enjoy looking at books, even if they do not like reading them by themselves. So the following suggestions are for interactive book sharing between you and your child with no emphasis on your child having to read the words themselves! You do not have to spend hours doing this. Just 5 minutes a day can make a big difference.

### **Make connections**

Help your child make connections between the things being talked about in the book, and things they have experienced themselves.

#### **Connections to self:**

Talk about a time when your child has experienced something similar to what is mentioned in the book

#### **Connections to other stories:**

Talk to your child about other stories you have shared e.g. "do you remember when we read Room on the Broom? That story had a Witch in it too. Do you think the Witch in this story will be the same as her?"

#### **Connections to the world:**

Try to provide an experience that links to what you have read about in the book – dressing up as a Witch for Halloween, making a 'magic potion' with things found in the garden, making up your own spells.

### **Open ended questions**

Use a range of questions that encourage more than one word answers. Ask who, where, when and where questions as you read the story and talk about the pictures. You could also try:

#### **Before reading:**

- What do you think this book will be about?
- Why did you choose this book? What did you like about the front cover?

#### **Whilst reading:**

- What might happen next?
- Why do you think he is feeling sad?

#### **After reading:**

- I really liked that story because it made me laugh. What did you like about it?
- If you could change the ending, what would it be?

### **Read it, read it again!**

Most children really enjoy reading the same book over and over again. And as boring as it is for us, your child will benefit by:

- Building an increased vocabulary – hearing the same words over and over again will enable them to add these words to their vocabulary
- Developing print awareness – this will help them to recognise letter shapes and whole words
- Word development – they will recognise familiar words and understand the meanings of these words



### My child doesn't like reading...

- Have you heard of Hygge (hoo-gey)? A Danish word to describe a cosy, special experience. Do whatever makes sharing a book special – a blanket; a biscuit; a den; go outside... if you start from a place of enjoyment, the reading will become part of that.
- What are they interested in? Starting here is so important to encourage reading for pleasure rather than seeing it as a chore.
- Online reading material can often make reading part of a game, which can be a real incentive for reluctant readers. Usborne's 'Teach your monster to read' is great for KS1

**“You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child.”**  
**Dr Seuss**

### I find reading out loud difficult...

Find an audiobook that interests them. Many sites have free monthly trials, and libraries have useful links:

- [www.southampton.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.southampton.gov.uk/libraries)
- [www.Audible.com](http://www.Audible.com)
- [www.Storynory.com](http://www.Storynory.com)

If your child has a favourite author it's worth checking their websites as they may be providing audiobooks, like David Walliams at [www.worldofdavidwalliams.com](http://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com)

### I don't have enough time...

15-20 minutes is an ideal amount of time to share a book, but for when you're feeling busy...

- **If you have 2 mins:** pick out 1 word on a page that is interesting and talk about it: e.g. **HUNTED**
  - Can you put it in a sentence?
  - What's another word that is similar?
  - Can we use that word at home tomorrow?
- **If you have 5 mins:** read a few pages together, talk about who is in the story; ask what might happen next?
- **If you have 10 mins:** listen to their questions about what you're reading – if you don't have the answer be honest! You can Google it together later.

### They're getting bored of their books...

- Try book swaps with friends or even virtual book clubs if they have some common authors like Julia Donaldson or Liz Pichon.
- Revisiting old favourites is actually really healthy! Younger children will pick up on the 'rhythm' of the read and recognise the repetition. Older children can find the familiarity a comfort, especially during the current times.
- Go to [www.usborne.com](http://www.usborne.com) and click on 'Quicklinks' for monthly recommendations of websites full of facts and information from space to whale skeletons; or 'did unicorns exist?'

## Useful links

### Key Stage 1

[www.mayasbooknook.com](http://www.mayasbooknook.com)  
*lots of ideas and book recommendations*

[www.bookstrust.org.uk](http://www.bookstrust.org.uk)  
*search for the reading tips and advice*

[www.hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk](http://www.hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk)  
*simple, fun activities for kids aged 0-5*

[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)  
*tiny happy people – developing communication skills through play*

### Key stage 2

[www.educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk](http://www.educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)  
*7 top tips for reading at home for KS2*

## Do's

- Have fun! There is no right or wrong way to share a book with your child.
- Let your child choose what they would like to read. They will feel more interested in the story if they have picked it out themselves.
- Reduce background noise and distractions to allow your child to be more focused on the book.
- Talk about the book rather than just reading the words.
- Use open ended questioning to help your child talk about their own experiences and express emotions, thoughts and ideas

## Home projects

Make your own picture books by taking photos of your child doing things, or drawing them, and create your own stories.

Children love to see themselves and will want to talk about it again and again.

Have you heard about the Southampton Summer Reading Challenge?

[www.southampton.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.southampton.gov.uk/libraries)