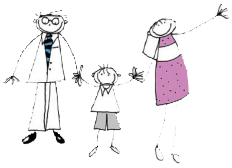
Reading to your child at home – why doing so every day is so vital

Research shows that the first 3 to 5 years of life is when the most rapid growth in the brain occurs. Therefore everything a child is exposed to during this time will set the stage for future learning.



Reading to your child creates a nurturing atmosphere, similar to when they were a baby. It will help them to create a positive association with books and reading.

Research has shown that being read to regularly increases your chances of performing better at reading and writing. There is also considerable evidence of a link between being read to regularly and academic achievement in every area.

Reading to your child will increase their vocabulary, which in turn improves their reading and writing.

Listening to stories helps children understand how they work – they learn about characters and settings, how stories start and end and phrases that are used regularly (E.g. Once upon a time.)

Listening to stories regularly helps children to make predictions, develop rhyming skills, increases attention, logical thinking, imagination and curiosity!

Plus, surveys of children have shown that over 80% 'love' or 'strongly like' being read to! What better reason?!

Top tips for reading to your child at home:

- Set aside some time – every day find somewhere quiet and without any distractions.
- Let your child choose the book – even if it's one they have heard lots of times already!
- Encourage them to hold the book and turn the pages.
- Talk about the book – make links to their life, talk about the illustrations, name the characters, guess what will happen next, talk about how the characters are feeling and how the book makes them feel.
- Make it fun – enjoy the time together!