

Get Ready to Read!

As parents you play a vital role in supporting your children as they learn to read. We are including some top tips to help you get your child ready to read!

1. Read to your child.

Children love to have a story read to them, especially at bedtime. There are lots of beautiful picture books out there and the library has a great supply that you can borrow. Curl up with your child, talk a little about the pictures, read the story and allow them to join in with you if they wish. If you can, read a variety of books. However, if your child has a favourite, feel free to read it over and over again! Try to include some books with rhyme in them (e.g. many of Julia Donaldson's picture books. Some of these can be found online:

Room on the Broom <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PHxGe44wSCI>

A Squash and a Squeeze <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NUisAU7LVxE>

The Detective Dog https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T5rhmq3_lew

The Smartest Giant in Town <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6gw-wfxFrFA>

The Gruffalo <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UgMyUVN1aNg>

2. Nursery Rhymes

Rhyme is an important skill for children to understand as they get read to read. Recite or sing some of the many nursery rhymes. Encourage your child to sing along with you. This could be a great activity during a car journey!

You can find lots of videos online for nursery rhymes. Here are some to get you started:

Top 20 English Nursery Rhymes: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzc_Rd4TuYg

Top 100 Nursery Rhymes Collection for Children:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tao7uuEFi_Y

London Bridge is Falling Down and More Nursery Rhymes and Kids Songs- Cocomelon:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ser69-nsRNs>

3. Sing the alphabet song with your child

The Alphabet Song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=178LL31grX0>

The ABC Song:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=80&v=Y88p4V_BCEU&feature=emb_logo

4. Play games

"I spy": choose an object and give your child a hint e.g. "I spy with my little eye something that starts with t (give the sound of the letter here)" or "I spy with my little eye something that rhymes with fox". You can add extra clues to help them as needed e.g. "I spy with my little eye something that starts with t and has 4 big wheels" (a truck). When the child is ready they can try to give you the clue, though they may need some help with this at first.

Word Families: choose a starter word and then try to come up with as many rhyming words as you can. These could be nonsense words too.

5. Helping with homework

- The teachers will let you know as the children learn the letter sounds in school. You can help by:
 - Going over them at home with them regularly. Remember to go back over ones they have done before to make sure they do not forget them.

- Look at the Geraldine the Giraffe videos for each letter on YouTube. The children love them!
- Sing the Jolly Phonics songs for each letter. The children will enjoy teaching you the songs and the movements for each letter! You can find a video with the songs and actions for all of the letters here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzBoqtayewI>
- If there are letters that are a little difficult for your child, please practice them a little each day.
- As your children learn some letters, the teachers will ask you to practice putting some letters together to make words e.g. m-a-t. Encourage your child to stick the sounds together as they say them. Lots of practice at this really helps as children begin to read words.
- Remember, check your child's bag each day for information from their teacher and try to have fun with your child as you work together.