



A love of books is a gift for life.

Get ready! Choose a cosy, quiet place and a book, rhyme or song that you and your child will enjoy.



Babies and young children love the sound of your voice so turn off the TV or Radio so they can hear you.

As well as reading the story, talk about the pictures. If there's a picture of a dog, talk about a dog that you know. Give your child time to respond to your chatter.

Your child will learn about books - start at the front and turn the pages to keep the story going. They will soon be turning the pages one by one.

Try out funny voices and sounds, play and have fun!

Don't read for too long. Young children get bored quickly, so little and often are best.

Let other grown-ups - grandparents, carers and older brothers and sisters - join in too.

It's good to share favourite books again and again. Repetition helps children to understand and remember the language they hear. It helps them remember what comes next.

Remember, books are not just for bedtime so take a book with you when you go to the park or in the car.

Visit your library for different books - it's free to join. Don't worry if books get damaged; libraries understand that this sometimes happens.



Sharing books is a wonderful way to help your child's language development, and it's the ideal opportunity to share a cuddle at the same time.

