

**Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.**

## Top tips for core books

**Reading books is essential for children to develop good literacy skills.**

They enable children to;

- Learn about the world around them and other cultures and people
- Handle thoughts, feelings and relationships
- Explore challenging topics in a safe way
- Develop imagination
- Make links to their own life experiences
- Introduce new and exciting vocabulary.



To support this, children need access to a wide range of core reading material. See our top tips for how you can do this:

- Review your books to ensure they include a range of material, e.g. fiction, non-fiction, poetry and rhymes, picture books, lift the flap books, big books, story sacks, recipe books, personal story books, magazines, project books, dual language books, etc.
- When purchasing new books think about whether they are inclusive, e.g. positive images of people with disabilities, women in lead roles, books that do not stereotype genders (i.e. showing men as nurses, women as fire fighters, dads who stay at home, etc).
- Include props to support storytelling, such as puppets, story stones or spoons, small world objects, natural materials, story sacks
- Where possible, have more than one copy of the text available for children to share together
- Consider books that support children's stage of development, e.g. waterproof books, soft cloth books, lift the flap or noisy books for babies and toddlers, books with repeated refrains or rhyming words, and books exploring feelings and everyday experiences
- Create lots of opportunities for reading stories with children
- Re-read children's favourite stories (again and again)
- Arrange books across your provision so children have good access to books in each area.

## NDNA products to support you

- [Publication: Developing Literacy Superheroes](#)
- [Literacy Champions programme](#)



Tip

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**Find more resources at [www.ndna.org.uk/hub/myndna](http://www.ndna.org.uk/hub/myndna)**