

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: Engaging parents with reading

Professor Guyonne Kalb says that “reading to children nearly every day almost doubles their progress to one year ahead of the group” while a Ladybird parent survey (August 2023) found that 33% of parents lack the confidence to read to their children.

Here are some top tips to engage your parents with reading to their child:



1. It is never too soon to start reading to children – young babies love the sound of their parents' voices and sharing a quiet moment with a book from an early age gets parents and children into the routine of reading together
2. Reassure parents that quality of shared reading is more valuable than quantity – just ten minutes a day can make a real difference
3. Children love the familiarity of sharing the same book again and again – it builds confidence, memory and provides comfort
4. Ideally, reading in a space which is quiet away from noise, TV and mobile phones will encourage engagement and focus on the book (for both adult and child)
5. Cuddle up together or get brothers and sisters to join in and enjoy stories and rhymes together
6. Make animal noises or sound effects – these help to bring the story to life and will make your child giggle and enjoy the experience
7. Talk about the pictures – tell them what you can see or how you interpret a character's emotions from their expressions. When children are familiar with the story you can start to ask them questions to help them begin to understand stories better. For example, “How do you think she feels about that?”, “I wonder what's going to happen next. What do you think?”
8. Try asking your child to tell the story. They can 'read' the pictures to you and talk about what's happening on the page

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.

9. Encourage parents to visit their local library to borrow books for free. If they run story time sessions where parents can meet other families and enjoy stories together, liaise with the library staff to advertise the sessions in your nursery
10. Set up a book library in the nursery so children and parents can access a range of texts. If your planning includes core books, provide additional copies for the children to take home.

NDNA products to support you with these tips

- Publication – [Your Essential Guide to Supporting the Home Learning Environment](#)
- Factsheet – [Developing Literacy at home](#)

And more resources at www.ndna.org.uk/hub/myndna