



Tips for sharing books with babies and toddlers

There's no right or wrong way to use books with babies and toddlers. It's more about enjoying the time you spend together & following their lead in deciding what to try next.

Select a variety of books in your child's home language/s, wherever possible. Choose some stories that have other children in them as well as ones that are about family and familiar everyday experiences. Rhyme and flap-books are very popular with toddlers.

Have lots of playful times with books and read books that are your child's favourites again and again!

Relax and sit comfortably with your child on your lap, or next to you, when you share books.

Share a book together for as short or as long as you both want to. It doesn't matter how long you read for – and you don't have to finish the book!

Draw your children's attention to the pictures and talk about the concepts, characters and what is happening in the book. Point to someone or something and say what or who it is and what it is doing.

Ask questions about what is happening in the book. Answer them yourself or allow your child to answer, if s/he can and wants to.

Listen carefully to what your child says or does and respond to it. This makes the experience more interesting for both of you and helps to develop your child's language.

Point to the words as you read them. This helps your child learn what words are and where the words you are saying "come from".

Make the sounds and noises of the characters or objects in the book.

If your child seems disinterested, **don't give up!** Try again later, or in another way – or try another book.

Sparking children's potential through storytelling and reading

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