Would you wait until a baby understands what you are saying before you talk to him or her? You also needn’t wait for children to be able to read by themselves before you regularly read to them. Babies and toddlers are comforted by the sound of their caregivers’ voices.

Sharing books with pictures, rhymes and stories with babies teaches them words and language. It’s also a wonderful way to bond with a baby, and pretty soon these words start to make sense.

The more you read aloud and talk to babies, the more words they hear. Very soon, you’ll hear them using these words themselves! This is called building a vocabulary.

Reading to babies helps them understand that print has meaning and teaches them how we tell stories.

Most importantly, when adults regularly read to babies and young children, they grow up seeing reading as fun and worthwhile. So, they are more likely to choose reading as an activity in their free time when they are older.

Just like it is never too early to start, it is also never too late to start! Children of all ages benefit from having someone read to them regularly. Being able to sit still and read, or be read to, is an essential skill your child will need to succeed at school and throughout his or her life.

Making time to read to the children in your life is an investment in their future, no matter how old they are. This time to bond shows children that you enjoy their company and care about them while building lifelong good memories of stories, books and reading!
Dipole le papadi di a tsamaisana

Bana ba rata ho itshisinya mmеле, ho tshwara dintho tse ba potoloenheng, ho bina dipina, ho bapala dipapadi, ho pheta direame, ho mamela dipale le ho di phela, ho taka le ho eetsa eka ba rata ba bala le ho ngola. Qeta nako e ngota ka moo o ka kgonang o rite o bapala le bana le bao, mmme o be le bao le nayentla wa he le bapala ba le bong le kopa bana le bong. Sena se tla eetsa bana le ke kopa bana le bong mme le qeta o qeta le bolo. O ka eetsa dintho tse leba teng ho thu sa bana le bao:

- Ba le nako e ngota ka hêtle ka moo o ka kgonang letšatsi le ke le leheng o le hêle le balo, lela le hêle bolo e o sa eetsa lela le leheng.
- Bapala le bana dipapadi tse o di rataang ka ho fetisisa.
- Ba bote hore na lela le bapala le bong le kopa bana le bong.
- Ha se hangata bana ba kgonang ho itlhokoa ka ho lela lela ka mantswe, ka hêle, ho niyo ho bolo ho bolo a mamedisise ha bao.
- Ba boelle hore o a o bapala dipole o qeta nako le bala. Ke e ngwele ka eetsa tse lela le bolo ho bolo ho fetisisa sa lela le bologa ho bologa.

Dinthe tse ngota tse le di bapanganga di ka tlhethwa dipalele tse o di phelatse tse o di baling bana le bao. Lebako le qapela pale bolo. Dipale tsa lela le bapala:

- Ho bao ka dinthe tse ngwana wa hêle le baling balo, lela baling balo e o sa eetsa lela le baling.
- Ha bao di rataang ka ho fetisisa.
- Ha ba le bapheleba ba a mamedisise ka lela lela le bolo ho bolo di baling.
- Ha ba le mantswe sa fetphietseng.
- Ha ba le bapheleba sa hêle bolo.
- Ha ba baling balingo sa baling balingo wa hêle le di kephelo.

Ha o se a qeletse ho baling balingo ho phetela bana bao hêle pale, eetsa diketsahalo tse ho bapala tse tshwelaeng pale bolo. Bana ba ka:

- leka ho bapheleba ba pale bolo.
- sebedisa dinthe tse o ba nang le bogo ho bolo balingo.
- Dinthe tse kae bapheleba sa ho bolo balingo.
- leka ho bapheleba ba pale bolo.
- Qapela dipina ka pale bolo.

Dipole le bapala dipole o bapala dipole.

Diketsahalo tse susumsenseng monahano

Literacy Seeds!

Activities that spark imagination

Dear parents and caregivers of young children, in Edition 197, we included some information and tips about sharing rhymes, stories and games with your babies and young children. In this edition, we will look at the importance of telling and reading them stories and encouraging them to read and write, even if they only pretend!

Children love to move their bodies, interact with the things around them, sing songs, play games, say rhymes, listen to and tell stories, draw and pretend to read and write. Spend as much time as you can playing with your children, and give them the time and space to play alone and/or with other children. This will make them feel happy and help them develop healthy self-esteem. Here are some things you can do to help your children:

- Make as much time for them as you can every day even though your free time is limited.
- Play their favourite games with them.
- Ask them questions about their day and whether there is anything that worries them.
- Children often cannot express themselves fully with words, so it’s important to really listen to them.
- Tell them that you love them and enjoy spending time with them. It is one of the best predictors of future success and happiness. 1

You can base many play activities on stories that you tell or read to your children. Try making up a story together. Your stories should:

- be about subjects that your child enjoys. If your child loves soccer, find or tell a story about their favourite soccer team or player.
- have interesting characters that do or say funny things!
- have some repetition of words.
- be easy for your child to remember.

Once you have read or told a story to your children, make up play activities based on the story. Children could:

- try to draw characters from the story.
- use everyday things around them when they act out the story, like empty shoeboxes to make houses and old buttons to make eyes!
- dress up as story characters.
- make up songs about the story.


Activities that spark imagination

Dipole le bapala dipole o bapala dipole.

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Kamoo o ka sebedisang pale Ha re be metswalle!

Bofaseng ba leqephe la 4, o tla fumana ditsole tsa hore na o mene le ho seha lwang ho ntsha pale ya Ha re be metswalle!, maqepheng a 5-8, 11 le 12. Ha o qetile ho etsa bukana ena, o ka e sebedisa ka ditsole tse latelang:

1. Mema ngwana wa hao – le ka mohlha o se ke wa mo qobella – hore a bale le wena.
2. Fumana sebaka se kgutseisen ge se o ka kgafelo horo ho bala ho sana. Tima seyakomya, TV le sefetlana.
3. Dula houli le ngwana wa hao kopa o mo kuke ha o dutse.
4. Oatang ka ho sheba le hou bua ka sekkwahe se kapele sa buka. Balang sekhotho sa pale le mobe o mangodi le otho ya takile di lwelwe.
5. Shebang di bale silo o ke kgilana ka kong.
6. Etsang horo pale e phela! Buang ca ke motho ya etsa bale ya Ha re be metswalle!, bua ca ke motho ya etsa bale ya Ha re be metswalle!
7. Botla, “O nanana ho le le o tla ho se kgilana ka etsa bale ya Ha re be metswalle!”
8. Bala pale ya Ha re be metswalle! hangatangata. Kgotholetsa bana ba hao letsa le lelapa.

Activity ideas for Let's be friends!

Throughout the day (even when you are doing chores!), you can do fun activities with your children:

1. Sing a song about making or being friends.
2. Pretend to be sharks swimming in the sea.
3. Invite – never force – your child to read with you.
4. Sit close together or with your child on your lap.
5. Encourage your children to tell stories about sharks, friends or anything that interests them.
6. Talk to each other about the story. What did the other creatures do when they saw the shark? Why did they do this? Is it always easy to make friends?
7. Find somewhere quiet and comfortable to read. Turn off the radio, TV and cell phone.
8. Find somewhere quiet and comfortable to read. Turn off the radio, TV and cell phone.
9. Invite your children to tell stories about sharks, friends or anything that interests them.
10. Look at the pictures on each page. Encourage your child to smell, hold or touch the pages.
11. Read Let's be friends! again and again. Encourage your children to say Let's be friends! at the correct place in the story.

How to use the story Let’s be friends!

At the bottom of page 4, you will find instructions on how to fold and cut out the story, Let’s be friends!, on pages 5-8, 11 and 12. Once you have made the little book, you can use it in the following ways:

1. Invite – never force – your child to read with you.
2. Turn off the radio, TV and cell phone.
3. Sit close together or with your child on your lap.
4. Start by looking at and talking about the book’s front cover. Read the story’s title and the names of the author and illustrator.
5. Look at the pictures on each page. Encourage your child to smell, hold or touch the pages.
6. Make the story come alive! Use different voices for different characters. In Let’s be friends! use a deep or rough voice for the shark.
7. Ask, “What do you think is going to happen next?” when the shark says hello to the different creatures in the sea. This kind of question will help to stimulate your child’s imagination.
8. Talk to each other about the story. What did the other creatures do when they saw the shark? Why did they do this? Is it always easy to make friends?
10. Most of all, enjoy sharing the book, and always try your best to make reading fun!
11. Repeat this routine as often as possible and get the whole family to join in.

Dikgopolo tsa diketsahalo tse ka etswang bakeng sa Ha re be metswalle!

Let’satsi kholo (esita le nakong eo le ntseg le etsa mesebotsi ya laping!), o ka etsa dintlo tse monate le bona ba hao,

1. Binang pina e mabapi le ho etsa metswalle kapa ho ba metswalle.
2. Etsang e ka le dishaka tse ntseg di sesa ka lewaltling.
3. Sheba bana ba hao e be o re, “Madaume! Dumele! Ha re be metswalle!”
4. Etsang e ka le dishaka tse ntseg di sesa ka lewaltling.
5. Etsang e ka le dishaka tse ntseg di sesa ka lewaltling.
7. Etsang e ka le dishaka tse ntseg di sesa ka lewaltling.
8. Etsang e ka le dishaka tse ntseg di sesa ka lewaltling.
10. Etsang e ka le dishaka tse ntseg di sesa ka lewaltling.
11. Etsang e ka le dishaka tse ntseg di sesa ka lewaltling.
12. Etsang e ka le dishaka tse ntseg di sesa ka lewaltling.
Dear Nal’ibali

I am so excited by the new ECD section on pages 2 and 3! It is just what I need to keep my four-year-old daughter busy and happy during the day. I did not know that rhymes and games were so important for her language development. Thank you, Nal’ibali, for your amazing advice!

Kind regards

Emma Bosman • Murray Hunter • Rujeko Moyo • Neil Badenhorst

Grow your own library. Create TWO cut-out-and-keep books

Onalenna and the giant yellowwood

1. Tear off page 9 of this supplement.
2. Fold the sheet in half along the black dotted line.
3. Fold it in half again along the green dotted line to make the book.
4. Cut along the red dotted lines to separate the pages.

Let’s be friends!

1. To make this book, use pages 5, 6, 7, 8, 11 and 12.
2. Keep pages 7 and 8 inside the other pages.
3. Fold the sheets in half along the black dotted line.
4. Fold them in half again along the green dotted line to make the book.
5. Cut along the red dotted lines to separate the pages.

Let’s be friends!

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Dear Nal’ibali

When reading is difficult for children, they are less likely to read in their spare time. Try to find ways for your daughter to experience the joy of books and stories without having to read on her own. For example, find wordless picture books for her. Let her listen to stories. (You can find audio stories on www.nalibali.org).

Watch a movie based on a book together and then suggest reading the book for her. Let her listen to stories. (You can find audio stories on www.nalibali.org).

We are very happy to hear that our new ECD section is so helpful to you. Talking to and playing with your child helps to develop their language skills and imagination – and strengthens the bond between you. Enjoy songs, rhymes and games with your little ones!

The Nal’ibali Team

Dear Cornell

When reading is difficult for children, they are less likely to read in their spare time. Try to find ways for your daughter to experience the joy of books and stories without having to read on her own. For example, find wordless picture books for her. Let her listen to stories. (You can find audio stories on www.nalibali.org).

Watch a movie based on a book together and then suggest reading the book together. We’re sure that she’ll get hooked on books in no time.

The Nal’ibali Team

Dear Xolisile

We are very happy to hear that our new ECD section is so helpful to you. Talking to and playing with your child helps to develop their language skills and imagination – and strengthens the bond between you. Enjoy songs, rhymes and games with your little ones!

The Nal’ibali Team

Dear Nal’ibali

I don’t know how to get my nine-year-old daughter to read for pleasure. She struggles with reading at school and so she doesn’t want to read at home.

Cornell Williams, Goodwood

Dear Cornell

When reading is difficult for children, they are less likely to read in their spare time. Try to find ways for your daughter to experience the joy of books and stories without having to read on her own. For example, find wordless picture books for her. Let her listen to stories. (You can find audio stories on www.nalibali.org).

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The Nal’ibali Team
Get story active!

1. Draw a shark on a piece of paper. Colour in your picture with pencil crayons or kokis.
2. Cut out the shark shape with a pair of scissors.
3. Use glue to paste the shark drawing onto a thin piece of cardboard, for example, a cereal box.
4. Cut the cardboard around the shark shape.
5. Use sticky tape or masking tape to attach a safety pin to the back of the badge. Or make a hole at the top and thread some wool or string through it so that you can hang it around your neck.
6. Enjoy wearing your badge anywhere and any time you want to make friends!

Eba mahlahahaha ka pale!

1. Taka shaka sekgetjhaneng sa pampiri.
2. Sebedisa alganyane ha pantshelane kopa dikolo ho kenyi mmola setshwakwane sa hoo.
3. Sebedisa le ho ntsha sebopeho se sa shaka.
4. Sebedisa sekgomaretsi ho kgomaretsa setshwane se sa shaka sekweneng sa khateboto, ka mohlala, lebokose la dpihlolo.
5. Sebedisa ka le ho ntsha sebopeho se sa shaka.

Let’s be friends!

Emma Bosman • Murray Hunter • Wilna Combrinck

Ideas to talk about: Is it easy to make friends? What do you think? Have you made any friends before? What can someone do to make new friends? Is it normal for some people not to want to be your friend? Why?

Nal’ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark and embed a culture of reading across South Africa. For more information, visit www.nalibali.org

LETS BE FRIENDS!

Hello! Hi!
Are you a fish?
So am I!
Madumela Dumela!
Le nna ke yona!

It's time to make some friends!
Ke nako ya ho etsa metswalle!

HA RE BE METSWALLE!
Making friends can be hard. But let’s try!

Ho etsa metswalle e ka ba ntho e thata. Empa ha re lekeng!
Oh dear.

Hello! Hi!
Madume! Dumela!
It was in the beautiful Knysna-Amatole forest that Onalenna and her father carved themselves a new home.

One morning, Onalenna decided to go for a walk in the Knysna forest her mother had always told her about – the rocky pools she swam in, the giant yellowwood trees that reached to the heavens, and the dozens of little creatures that delighted her soul.

Onalenna arrived at a gigantic yellowwood tree not too far from their new home, and decided to rest a while. As she dozed off, leaning back against the tree, wafts of her mother’s lullaby drifted towards her, soft and quiet:

Thula thu-, Thula mntwana, thula sana, Thul’ umam’ uzobuya ekuseni.

Thula thu-, Thula mntwana, thula sana, Thul’ umam’ uzobuya ekuseni.
Onalenna was an only child, dearly loved and treasured by her father and mother. She especially loved the lullaby her mother sang to her every time she rocked her to sleep:

**Thula thu-**, (Quiet, shhh)
**Thula sana, thula mntwana,** (Quiet child, hush my baby)
**Thul’ umam’ uzobuya ekuseni.**
(Quiet, mother will come in the morning)

*Thula thu-,
Thula mntwana, thula sana,
Thul’ umam’ uzobuya ekuseni.*

But one day Onalenna’s mother became sick, and when Onalenna was just a little girl, her mother passed away. Onalenna stopped singing.

Onalenna’s father decided to move them closer to where her mother was raised.
Do you like to swim? So do I!

O rata ho sesa?
Le nna ke a rata!
LET’S BE FRIENDS!
HA RE BE METSWALLE!
Contact us in any of these ways:

Ikopanye le rona ka e ngwe ya ditsela tse latelang:

www.nalibali.org  |  www.nalibali.mobi  |  @nalibaliSA  |  @nalibaliSA  |  info@nalibali.org
Dipetja tsa botswalle

Ka Zahida Wahab ▶ Ditshwantsho ka Chantelle le Burgen Thorne

Palesa le Gracie e nnile ya ba metswalle ya hlooho ya kgomo ho hlooho ba ba ne ba le dilemo di tharo. E ne e le baahisani, mme bomme ba bona le bona e ne e le metswalle. Ba siana ka kgwedi mme ba hodisitswe jwalo ka bana ba matlo. Ba ne ba etsa ntho e ngwwe le e ngwwe hlooholo. Ba kene sekolo se le seng mme ka mehla ba ne ba qetella ba le seholopheng se le seng!

Jwale ka leatsatsi le leng ha ba bana bana ba se ba le baholwanyane, ha etsahala ntho e ngwwe ya ba utlwa bohloko hlooho. Gracie o le o fihlo habo Palesa a se kgilila.

“Molato keng?” ha botsa Palesa, a tshwenyehile hlooho hlooho ka metswalle wa hae. “Ntate wa ka o fumane mosebetsi motsetoropong o mong mme lelapa leso le tlameha ho falla,” ha rialo Gracie a ishetse ka dikgapha.

Banana bana ka bobedi ba lla habohloko. “Mme, ke kopa Gracie a sale le rona hle,” Palesa a kopa mme wa hae.

“Mme, ke kopa re tsamaye le Palesa hle,” Gracie a kopa mme wa hae. Empa ka bomadimabe, sena se ne se sa kgonehe kahoe e mong le e mong wa ba hana bana o ne a lokela ho dula le lelapa labo.

Ha lelapa la bo Gracie le tla tsoha le tsumaya ka la hosasa, Palesa a nahana ka mpho e ikgethang eo a tla e fa metswalle wa hae. E ne e le sepetja se mong le kgwetsa se a se fihleleng ke kgono wa hae dilemeng tse fihleleng. Mme ya neng a rekisetsa kgono wa hae sepetja se a ile re o entse dipetja tse pedi feela tsa motlha ona. Se seng se ne se na le kgwetsa ya leatsatsi, atle se seng sona se ne se na le kgwetsa ya kgwedi.

Nkgono wa Palesa o ile a kgetha leatsatsi bakeng sa Palesa. Ha a fa Palesa sepetja se a ne a ile re, “O kganyo bophelo ba rona.” Ha nkgono wa Palesa a hloahala, neng le neng ha Palesa a rwa lea sepetja seo, o ne a utlwa lerato la nkgono wa hae. E ne e le sa bohlokwkwa hlooho ho yena.

“Ke batla ho fa Gracie sepetja se a,” ke Palesa eo o buela tlase a le mong. “Se tla mo hopotsa hore re tla dula re le metswalle ya hlooho ya kgomo.”

Gracie o ile a ya sekolog se setjha, empa o ne a hloaholwa metswalle wa hae hlooho. Monyella o mong le o mong ba o hlaaha, banana bana a babedi ba hla ho ngolona mangolo.

Ka leatsatsi le leng, Palesa a fumana sephuthelwana posong. Se ne se tswa ho Gracie. “Ke a ipotsa hore na se na le eng ka hare,” Palesa a rialo ha mme wa hae a mo sa fa sona.

“Mme a re, “Se bule!”
Palesa o ile a makala hlooho ha ka hare sephuthelwana seo a fumana sepetja se tshwangan hante le se a se fileng Gracie. “Ebe ke hobotse ke Gracie a kgotlisa sepetja sa ka?” Palesa a ipotsa a tshwenyehile a bile a hlahehile.

Empa ha Palesa a shebisisa sepetja seo, a bona hore sona se na le kgwetsa ya kgwedi. “Sena ke sepetja sane se se feng sona Nkgono a ileng a mopeli sona ka sona!” Palesa a ialo ka pososelo ho tharo ha o mpho eo a mpho lo tla mphang yona. Ke se romela ho wena ho o hopotsa hore re tla dula re le metswalle ya hlooho ya kgomo.

“Tjhehe, ona ke molohlo wa meholo,” ha ialo Palesa ha a rwa lea sepetja se.

Palesa a ne a tseba hore eo ke pontsho ya hore metswalle e tla dula e le metswalle, ho sa tsotelleho hore na e mong o dula hole hakae le e mong. E ne e ka leatsatsi le kgwedi, e mong le e mong a tana ka kganya ka tseba ya hae e ikgethang.
Palesa and Gracie had been best friends since they were three years old. They lived next door to each other, and their mothers were friends too. They were born a month apart and were raised like sisters. They did everything together. They went to the same school and always ended up in the same class!

Then one day, when the girls were a bit older, something happened that made them very sad. Gracie arrived at Palesa’s house in tears. “What’s wrong?” Palesa asked, very worried about her friend.

“My dad got a job in another city, and my family has to move,” Gracie said through her tears.

The two girls cried their hearts out. “Mama, can Gracie please stay with us?” Palesa begged her mom.

“My dad got a job in another city, and my family has to move,” Gracie said through her tears.

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“Mama, can Palesa please go with us?” Gracie begged her mom. But, sadly, this was not possible because the girls each had to stay with their own family.

The day before Gracie’s family left, Palesa thought of a special gift for her friend. It was the charm bracelet her grandmother had given her years ago. The woman who had sold the bracelet to her grandmother had said that she had made only two of this kind. One bracelet had a sun charm, and the other one had a moon charm.

Palesa’s grandmother had chosen the sun for Palesa. “You are the light of our lives,” she had said when she gave Palesa the bracelet. When Palesa’s grandmother passed away, Palesa always felt her grandmother’s love when she wore the bracelet. It was very special to her.

“I want Gracie to have this bracelet,” Palesa whispered to herself. “It will remind her that we will always be best friends.”

Gracie moved to her new school, but she missed her friend very much. The two girls wrote to each other every chance they got.

One day, Palesa received a package in the mail. It was from Gracie. “I wonder what’s inside,” Palesa said as her mom handed it to her.

“Open it!” Mama smiled.

To Palesa’s surprise, she found a bracelet just like the one she had given Gracie inside the package. “Why did Gracie send my bracelet back?” Palesa asked, feeling worried and a bit sad.

But when Palesa looked at the bracelet more carefully, she saw that this one had a moon charm. “This is the other bracelet Granny told me about!” Palesa said with a big smile. Then she also found a note from Gracie. Gracie wrote: I found this bracelet in our new home. I tried to return it to the owner, but she said I could have it as a gift. I am sending it to you to remind you that we will always be best friends.

“What a magical coincidence,” Palesa said, as she put on the bracelet.

Palesa knew it was a sign that the two friends would always stay friends, no matter how far away they lived from each other. They were like the sun and moon, each giving light in its own unique way.
1. Bella le mme wa hae ba lokela ho fihla ho Hope le Afrika. Na o ka ba thusa?

Bella and her mom need to get to Hope and Afrika. Can you help them?

Mbali is Neo’s sister, and she is two years old. She loves books with rhymes in them, but she also enjoys pretending to read Neo’s books. She often reads to her teddy bear and to Bella’s dog, Noodle. What do you think the title of the book is that Mbali is reading in the picture? Write what you think she’s saying in the speech bubble, and then draw a picture or write something in the thought bubble to show what her teddy bear is thinking.

2. Bella le mme wa hae ba lokela ho fihla ho Hope le Afrika. Na o ka fumana diphapang tse 8 ditshwantsong tsee tse pedi?

Can you spot 8 differences between these two pictures?

3. Na o ka fumana diphapang tse 8 ditshwantsong tsee tse pedi?

Can you spot 8 differences between these two pictures?