Just good parenting!

Sharing books with your children gives you the opportunity to build a strong and loving bond with them while also helping to develop the literacy skills that are so important for their success at school.

Reading helps to open your children’s eyes, hearts and minds to other people and to different situations. And, when you read to them, you help to establish reading as something they will continue to do for pleasure throughout their lives. So really, reading to your children is just good parenting!

Here are some tips for sharing books with your children, no matter what their age:

- Invite your children to read with you for at least 15 minutes every day.
- Find somewhere quiet and comfortable to read. Beds and couches make good indoor reading places. Turn off the radio, TV and computer.
- Ask your child to choose a book for you to read together. This shows that you care about what they think and they are more likely to engage with a book that they have chosen themselves!
- Sit close together and encourage your child to hold the book themselves or to help you do this.
- Read to them every day. Repetition is vital for children’s language development.
- Talk about the story together. Encourage your children to share their opinions of the ways in which the characters in the story behave and the choices they make. Develop your children’s prediction skills by asking, “What do you think is going to happen next?” at different points in the story.
- If the book has illustrations, enjoy looking closely at them together. Comment on things you notice and like in the illustrations and encourage your children to do the same.
- But, most of all, simply enjoy sharing different books together. Relax and do whatever it takes to make these times fun for all of you.

Younger children enjoy turning the pages. Invite older readers to read the words of one of the characters or a paragraph or two of the story.

• Try different things to make stories come alive! Use different voices for different characters. Read softly in quiet, gentle parts of a story. Read quickly if a character is in a hurry, or is being chased. Read in a big, booming voice for loud noises in the story.

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For more ideas about how to get and keep children reading, visit “Tips and Topics” on www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi.

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4. Cut along the red dotted lines.

2. Fold it in half along the black line.

1. Take out pages 3 to 6 of this supplement.

The free Nal’ibali reading-for-enjoyment supplement is a big help because most reading resources cost money. When we first discovered the supplement in the Daily Dispatch, we chose just rural schools to distribute the supplements to. This has spread to include schools for children with special needs. Every two weeks two of us will do the rounds – we deliver 400 Nal’ibali supplements to six schools. Up to date, we have handed out about 16 000 copies of the Nal’ibali supplement!

What do children seem to enjoy most about the Nal’ibali supplement?

They love cutting out and making their own books to keep each week.

What advice do you have for adults about reading to children?

If you feel uncomfortable reading to children, then rather tell stories, such as folk tales, or use wordless picture books as a guide to make up stories. This will spark their imagination.

Across the country, individuals and organisations are finding ways to make reading and writing part of children’s daily lives. To say thank you, our featured Story Stars will receive meal vouchers* courtesy of Wimpy to enjoy with the children in whose lives they are making a difference.

* For terms and conditions that apply, go to www.nalibali.org/story-stars.

Raffaella Delle Donne

How THE zebras got their stripes

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Enjoy listening to stories in Sesotho and in English on Nal’ibali’s radio show:

Lesedi FM on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9.45 a.m. to 10.00 a.m.

Safari FM on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1.30 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.

Create your own cut-out-and-keep book

1. Take out pages 3 to 6 of this supplement.
2. Fold it in half along the black dotted line.
3. Fold it in half again.
4. Cut along the red dotted lines.

Iketsetse bukan a e-sehwang le ho ipolokelwa

1. Ntlha kopedwa la 3 o sa la 6 bukaneng ena ya fumane.
2. Le mene ka halalo ho odima mola wa mafhebha a matsha.
3. Le mene ka halalo ho fumane.
4. Seh a odima mola ya mafhebha a matsho.
This story of how zebras got their stripes was inspired by the animated feature film, Khumba.

Life is not all black and white for Khumba, a young zebra born with only half his stripes, who is rejected by his superstitious herd and blamed for a sudden drought affecting the land.

Teaming up with a sassy wildebeest and a flamboyant ostrich, Khumba sets out on a daring mission across the Karoo desert to find the legendary waterhole where the first zebras got their stripes. Along the way he meets a host of colourful characters, but before he can reunite with his herd, Khumba will have to come face to face with a menacing leopard in an epic battle to earn his stripes.

Half a zebra, a whole lot of adventure!

www.khumbamovie.com

SEE KHUMBA IN CINEMAS IN 3D IN ENGLISH OR AFRIKAANS FROM 25 OCTOBER 2013!
Long, long ago, zebras had no stripes at all. They were so pale that they had to shelter from the fiery Karoo sun at midday. All the zebras were happy, except for one.

“Mama,” he complained, “why are we all the same? I wish I looked different!”

The zebra’s mother smiled. “We may all look alike,” she said, “but we’re all different – on the inside.”

“The funny thing is …” the little zebra said with a smile, “we’re all different now!”

And he was right too – all zebras have stripes, but no two zebra skins are ever exactly the same!
"That isn't good enough!" said the little zebra crossly. "I want to be different on the outside too, where everybody can see!"

So, he tried to look different. He rolled in acacia sap, and then stuck leaves onto himself, but he just looked silly and the other zebras laughed at him.

"Hoo ha ho a lekana!" ho rialo qwaha e nyane e halefile. "Ke batla ho fapanane la ba bang le ka ntle, moo bohle ba ka mponang!"

Kahoo, a leka ho shebahala a fapane le ba bang. A pitika ka hara 'acacia sap', mme a imanamisa ka makala, empa a shebahala a qabola mme diqwaha tse ding tsa mo tsheha.

"I'm very proud of you," said the little zebra's mother. "You could have kept the waterhole to yourself, but you chose to help us all. I always knew you were different."

"Ke motlotlo haholo ka wena," ho rialo mme wa qwaha e nyane. "O ka be o ntse o ipoloketse sediba seo o le mong, empa o ile wa kgtha ho re thuasa bohle. Haesale ke tseba hore o fapane le ba bang."
The little zebra refused to give up. "Goodbye, Mama," he said one day. "I'm going to find a way to look different."

And off he went.

He travelled for many days through the Karoo veld, until he came to a high mountain. Up, up he climbed. Something about this place felt magical to him.

The little zebra led the herd across the veld and up, up, up the mountainside until they came to the cave with the waterhole. The herd followed him into the cave.

"Here it is," he said. "This is the magical waterhole that gives stripes."

One by one, the zebras swam in the magic waterhole. Soon they were all covered in beautiful stripes!

"Sala hantle, Mme," a rialo ka tsatsi le leng. "Ke ilo batla tsela eo nka shebehang ke fapane le ba bang ka yona."

Mme yaba o a tsamaya.

"Sala hantle, Mme," a rialo ka tsatsi le leng. "Ke ilo batla tsela eo nka shebehang ke fapane le ba bang ka yona."

Mme yaba o a tsamaya.
Here are some ideas for you to try out before, during and after reading.

Before
- Let younger children take a quick look at the pictures and use them to predict or guess what the story is about.
- Encourage older children to read the title of the story. Ask them what they know about zebras, for example, what they look like, where they live and what they eat. Have they ever seen a zebra or a photograph of one?

During
- As you read, help develop children’s prediction skills by asking, “What do you think will happen next?” after you have read pages 5 and 12.
- Look at some of the pictures more closely. Draw your children’s attention to the details and talk about these together.
- If your children can already read, let them read the words spoken by the little Zebra.

After
- Let your children draw a picture that is inspired by the story and then write about their picture. You can help younger children by writing the words that they tell you.
- Do you or your children know other stories that explain why animals have their stripes? Ask them what they know about zebras, for example, what they look like, where they live and what they eat. Have they ever seen a zebra or a photograph of one?

Win a trip to the movies!
To celebrate the release of Khumba in English and Afrikaans in 3D in cinemas on 25 October 2013, we’re giving away movie tickets! Simply SMS your name and the name of the movie to 32545 or email these details to letters@nalibali.org by 31 October 2013 and stand a chance of winning one of five pairs of movie tickets. R1,00 per SMS

Ikgapele leeto la ho ya dimoving!
Vusi and Sinazo (Part 1)

by Helen Brain

Vusi loved his dog, Domino. Domino was white with three black spots on his back. Vusi’s little sister, Sinazo, loved her cat, Fluffy. Fluffy was black with three white spots on her tummy.

“My dog is better than your cat,” said Vusi one Sunday morning as the children were having breakfast. “Domino doesn’t scratch me, or drink my milk and he never walks on my schoolbooks with muddy paws.”

“Domino is very naughty,” said Granny. “When you tell him to sit, he jumps around. When you tell him to jump, he sits down, and when you sit down, he jumps up and kicks your face.”

“My cat is better than your dog,” said Sinazo. “Fluffy does not lick my face or steal my ice cream. Fluffy doesn’t make a mess in the yard and she never barks.”

“No need to fight,” Granny told Vusi and Sinazo. “Now finish your breakfast and put Domino and Fluffy in the yard. Then wash your face, brush your teeth, comb your hair and put on your clothes for church.”

Vusi took Domino into the yard. “Stay here,” he said. Vusi ran back inside, but he forgot to shut the kitchen door. Domino followed him right back inside and quickly hid under Vusi’s bed.

Sinazo took Fluffy into the yard. “Stay here,” she said. Sinazo ran back inside, but she forgot to shut the bedroom window. Fluffy went right back inside. She jumped on top of the wardrobe and went to sleep.

The children washed their faces, brushed their teeth and combed their hair. Then they went into their bedroom to get dressed.

Sinazo was trying to reach her dress in the wardrobe. “Woof, woof,” said Vusi, “Domino a kغا bеге akъrь”. Domino jumped up and licked Sinazo with his long red tongue.

“Go away, Domino!” she shouted.

Fluffy woke up. She looked over the edge of the wardrobe and saw Domino jumping on Sinazo. “Sssss!” she hissed. “Get off her, or I will scratch you.”

Just then Granny came marching down the passage. She was wearing her best dress, her smart shoes and her favourite hat. “What is going on in here?” she asked sternly, opening the door. “It is almost time to leave.”

Do you think Granny is angry? What will happen next?

Find out next week what surprising things happen while Domino and Fluffy in the yard.

Vusi and Sinazo are at church.

In your next Nal’ibali supplement:

• How to choose books
• Story Stars: The art of giving
• Collect the Nal’ibali characters: Bella
• A mini-book, Just right!

Running out of story ideas? Explore our “Reading and Storytelling tips” section at www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi for articles and ideas to encourage a love of reading in your child, and to help keep them hooked!