"When one realises that half a person’s ultimate intelligence is developed by the age of four, then the adult’s responsibility in helping to stimulate this development is apparent”

Betty Root

If you talk with me,
If you play with me,
If you sing to me,
If you read to me,
Then I’ll know
What it’s all about!

TOP TIPS

- Find a quiet place. Turn off the TV or radio so there are no distractions
- As well as reading the story, talk about the pictures. If there is a picture of a dog, talk about a dog that you know
- Give your child time to respond to your chatter
- Don’t put any pressure on your child to name the pictures, but if they copy your words, praise them and say the words again for them
- Don’t read for too long. Young children get bored quickly, so little and often is best
- Let other grown ups, grandparents, carers and older brothers and sisters join in too
- It’s good to share favourite books again and again. Repetition helps children understand and remember the language they hear
- Remember, sharing books gives you the opportunity to communicate meaningfully with your child and improve literacy skills necessary for your child to learn to read

READING TIPS FOR PARENTS OF PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

Get the most out of reading for you and your child
Give your child the best start
JOIN THE LIBRARY!

Books are free

Local libraries have a good selection of books that little hands can hold

Up to 9 books can be borrowed at any one time

Libraries also have DVDs and CDs

Libraries have Rhythm and Rhyme events for babies and toddlers and storytelling sessions for older children

It is no longer traditional for children to be quiet in libraries

GIVE SHHH... THE PUSH!

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A BOOK

Age of child

Interests of child

Illustrations

Amount of text

Number of pages

Language

Material (card, fabric, etc)

Content / storyline

Size of print

Type (fact / fiction)

RECOMMENDED READS

Ladybird Toddler Touch: First Words by Ladybird
For young children who are starting to explore the world around them, full of interesting new words and pictures that are familiar to toddlers

Socks by Nick Sharratt
Laugh your socks off. Stripy sharks and wooly crocs, purple dogs with polka dots

My Favourite Book of Rhymes by Kali Stileman
Perfect to help build language, understanding and enjoyment

This Mouse Belongs to me by Oliver Jeffers
Trial and tribulations with ownership, antlers and the rules of being a good pet

What the Ladybird Heard by Julia Donaldson
Full of rhyming text and offers the opportunity to demonstrate one's finest animal sounds