

# Reading Stories to Children- A Guide for Parents and Carers



During the reception year your child will bring home two books.

- One is for **your child to read to you**. It will be carefully chosen so that they can work out all the words. More information will be shared when your child starts the school reading scheme.



- The other book has words your child may not be able to read yet. **It is for you to read to your child and talk about together.**

## Storytime!



### Reading a story to your child

#### On the first reading:

- Make reading aloud feel like a treat. Make it a special quiet time and cuddle up so you can both see the book.
- Show curiosity about what you're going to read: 'This book looks interesting. It's about an excited child. I wonder what s/he's excited about?...'
- Read through the whole story the first time without stopping too much. Let the story weave its own magic.
- Read with enjoyment. If you're not enjoying it, your child won't.

Read favourite stories over and over again!



On later readings:

- Let your child pause, think about and comment on the pictures.
- If you think your child did not understand something, try to explain: 'Oh! I think what's happening here is that...'
- Chat about the story and pictures: 'I wonder why she did that?'; 'Oh no, I hope she's not going to...'; 'I wouldn't have done that, would you?'
- Link the stories to your own family experiences: 'This reminds me of when ...'
- Link stories to others that your child knows: 'Ah! Do you remember the dragon in ....? Do you remember what happened to him?'
- Encourage your child to join in with the bits they know.

