

# Supporting Your Child with Reading



## Read to Your Child and Read with Your Child

### Reading to your child:

- allows them to match what they see with what they hear;
- exposes them to how reading sounds – the speed, flow and rhythm of reading;
- enables them to practice comprehension and encourages questioning;
- enables you to vary the level of the text to maintain interest over ability.

### Reading with your child can look like:

- taking turns to read pages, sentences or simply allowing them to fill in words;
- reading texts your child knows well and getting it wrong, allowing them to correct you;
- relating the text to an experience the child has had, for example 'The sand on the beach was scorching hot.' 'Remember when we went to Sumner and Dad almost burned his feet?'

## Talk and Read

The number of words your child knows can be linked to their ongoing success with reading.

### You can build the number of words your child uses and understands by:

- using a variety of words for different things;
- taking turns in conversations using a serve and return model;
- reading, talking, singing, signing, using gestures, questioning;
- listening to podcasts, audio books and talks at appropriate levels.

## Play

### Play is important for learning to read:

- Use rhymes, song, jokes and language games.
- Use board and card games with letters, spelling and reading.
- Play language games such as I spy and 20 questions.

Play that doesn't seem related to reading is still important – your child is learning to strengthen their hand muscles, track objects, understand directions, follow instructions and use their imagination.

## One Word Forward, Two Words Back

### Be patient!

Your child might make mistakes. They may misread a word several different ways, or miss words altogether. They might recognise a word one day and then forget it the next. They might lose their place and they will almost certainly get frustrated.



## Let Them Read

### Let your child read:

- books that are 'too easy';
- books that are 'too hard';
- signs and comics;
- food packets or wrappers;
- the clue cards in a game;
- picture books;
- recipes, magazines and joke books.

All reading is reading, no matter what, when or where!