



PEOPLE



PROMOTE



PROTECT



PROVIDE



PARTNERSHIP

Delivering good health
and prevention services
Public Health in Leicestershire



Leicestershire
County Council

The Importance of BOOKS

Remember: Children do not have to read, write, or even speak to enjoy story time! Sharing books and stories with your child can be done from when they are a baby and can be carried on even when your child can read confidently by themselves.

Libraries are a great place to choose and read books with your child. Many libraries put on sessions directly relating to story time. You and your child can visit your local library regularly to swap books. You and your child can sign up to join your local library at any age

Reading books with children helps develop their communication and language skills by:

- Exposing them to new language and securing their understanding in words they know.
- Stories that rhyme are very helpful for teaching speech and language skills and can help children discover a love of language. Rhyming also helps towards early phonics and can develop a child's understanding of words.
- Engaging children's imaginations, stimulating imaginative play, and introducing children to things and places they may not have a chance to learn about otherwise, such as oceans or dinosaurs.
- Helping children to talk about emotions, feelings, or the world. Many books are topic related and you can have discussions during story time. An example of these topics can be books about new siblings, toilet training, dealing with emotions, or about different families/cultures and religions.

Reading to a new-born baby gives them comforting contact. You are also establishing an early reading routine, and this helps make future reading comfortable and fun. It can help to start a set reading routine with your child such as at bedtimes, after bath, before nursery etc.

Reading stories aloud and sharing books supports children to develop language and understand new concepts. Encouraging children to notice pictures and understand words, will strengthen their language skills, and widen their vocabulary.

Children extend on their language skills with pretend play and acting out stories. By using props alongside story times, you can deepen their learning. You can use props relating to the story like puppets, dolls, loose parts, dress up etc. This may also include imaginative play resources like houses, farms, or garages.