

Reading from a young age

- Children who were read to regularly by their parents at age five performed better in maths, vocabulary and spelling tests at age 16 than those who were not helped in this way.
- Children often have a favourite story they want to hear again and again. This helps them to learn the word order and link the written word to the story – which are the first steps in learning to read
- Sharing books, stories and rhymes with your child from an early age can help create a lifelong reader.
 - For more information please follow the below links:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/what-we-do/programmes-and-campaigns/bookstart/>

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/babys-development/play-and-learning/baby-and-toddler-play-ideas/>

Top tips

- Talk about the book's cover and point out the title.
- Let your child hold the book and turn the pages.
- Encourage them to talk about the pictures.
- Use different voices for different characters. Add in sound effects like splashing in puddles, beeping car horns or animal sounds.
- When the story is finished, you could ask them if they liked it and if they had a favourite character.