

Reading with your child

0-12 months



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 **BookTrust**
Inspire a love of reading

Sharing a book with a child is fun – it's a time for closeness, laughing and talking together.

Reading with your child can help them develop, strengthen your bond and get them ready for school.

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers

It's never too early to start enjoying books together. Reading to your child from an early age helps to give them the best possible start in life.

But not everyone is confident with books and reading aloud, so this booklet is full of tips and ideas on how to get the most out of sharing books together.

**From,
All of us at BookTrust**



Tops tips for reading together

- Find somewhere quiet away from noise, TV and mobile phones.
- Take time to look and talk about the pictures.
- It doesn't matter if your baby chews books to start with. Soon they'll enjoy helping you turn the pages!



- **Use animal noises or sound effects – these help to bring the story to life and make you both laugh!**
- **Stories and rhymes can be shared with the whole family so why not invite other family members to join in?**
- **It doesn't matter if you're not a brilliant reader – just listening to your voice is comforting for your baby.**



Rhyme-time

Have fun singing this rhyme with your child:

**Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are!
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky!
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are!**



- **'Twinkle, Twinkle' is a perfect rhyme for bedtime – why not look up at the night sky together?**
- **Make stars with your hands – open and close your hand to show the star twinkling.**
- **Sharing rhymes every day, even for a few minutes, can also help your child grow into a reader.**

Why reading with your child is important

- **Reading together is great for bonding and building a strong and loving relationship with your child.**
- **The routine of sharing stories and rhymes helps your child to communicate and will support their wellbeing.**
- **Children who are read to from an early age do better when they get to school – learning rhymes and stories together will give them a flying start!**



Let's choose some books

It's OK to read the same book again and again because familiar books are comforting and build confidence.

But if you're ready for a change, use our Bookfinder to search for books about things your child enjoys. You can find book ideas for children of all ages, from babies to teenagers.

booktrust.org.uk/books

The next page also has some great new book ideas to get you started.



Some great books to get you started



It's a Little Baby

Julia Donaldson, illustrated by Rebecca Cobb

(Macmillan Children's Books)

Somebody is hiding on each page of this beautiful and simple book – behind the pile of washing, in the long swooshy grass and behind the collection of teddies. Lift the flap to find the baby and see what they're up to!



Baby Sparkle Bedtime

DK

(DK Children's)

Get out of the bath, put on your sleepsuit just like tired Ted and share this lovely bedtime story. A simple board book with lots of colourful photos and glittery pages that your baby will love to touch.

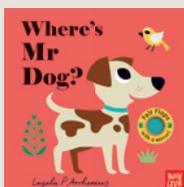


Me...

Emma Dodd

(Templar Publishing)

A baby penguin realises how small they are compared to how steep the mountains are and how deep the ocean is... but that they are very big indeed to their grown up! A beautifully illustrated book to cuddle up to.



Where's Mr Dog?

Ingela P Arrhenius

(Nosy Crow)

Can you find all the friendly pets behind each of the felt flaps in this bright and cheerful book? There's even a mirror on the last page to see a familiar friendly face!

Looking for more ideas?

- **Visit your local library where you can borrow books for free. See if they run a Rhymetime or Storytime session where you can meet other families and enjoy rhymes together!**
- **Ask your health visitor for ideas on how you can support your baby's development by sharing books together.**
- **Find great books online with BookTrust! Our website has lots of ideas for books to enjoy as well as lots more tips to make reading fun. booktrust.org.uk**





BookTrust is the UK's largest children's reading charity. We are dedicated to getting children reading.

Illustrations by Daniel Taylor

Charity number 313343

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