

# Introduction

Children's neurological pathways multiply and develop faster in the first five years than at any other time in their life. The early years are critical for developing a lifelong love of reading. It's never too early to begin reading to your child! The more you read to your child the larger their vocabulary will become.

## **National Curriculum Expectations**

#### **Foundation**

In the foundation year of school, children will view, listen to and enjoy texts such as picture books and rhymes. They begin to learn to read and create texts.

Students typically will communicate with others in familiar situations. They recognise rhyming words, syllables and sounds. They recognise letters and the most common sounds the letters make and begin sounding out words.

They listen to and read stories, poetry and information books with pictures and familiar vocabulary that contain one or more sentences. They start to create their own texts orally, by presenting pictures or in writing.





#### **Track Printing**

Whilst reading use your finger to track the words as you say them. Point out words in everyday life, for example, names of places you visit and logos.



#### Chat

Discussing the content and meaning of books is an important part of reading. Chat about the book before, during and after reading. Encourage your child to share their ideas and to ask questions about the book.

# What You Can Do as a Parent

#### **Read Together Every Day**

Read to your child every day. Make a routine, for example, read after a bath or before bed. Allow your child to read a book to you (tell the story by the pictures), then you can read the story back to them.

#### **Involve the Family**

The more people that read to your child, the more literacy experiences they will be exposed to. Everyone tells a story in a different way (e.g. character voices). Have siblings, grandparents, aunties and uncles read to your child.

#### **Read a Range of Texts**

Recipe books, nursery rhymes, leaflets from the mailbox or classic stories. The possibilities are endless.

#### **Use Audiobooks**

Your local library offers a loan facility for you to borrow children's books that contain a CD. Put this on while going on long drives in the car or make a cubby out of sheets where you and your child can sit quietly and listen to the audiobook.

## **Model Your Reading Enjoyment**

Tell your child how much you enjoy reading with him or her. Talk about "story time" as the favourite part of your day. Read books for your own enjoyment in view of your child.

### **Give Your Child a Wide Variety to Choose From**

Use the library and allow your child to pick out the books that interest them. Make sure they have many text types and genres to choose from.

### Read It Again and Again

Go ahead and read your child's favourite book for the 100th time!

# **Phonological Awareness**

At the end of the Foundation stage children should be able to:

To support these skills, you could do the following activities with your child:

Identify and use rhyme, letter patterns and sounds in words.

Tell nursery rhymes and sing songs;

Show evidence of sound and letter knowledge in their writing.

 Teach initial sound, exaggerate sounds such as mmmmmm;

Start breaking words up into onset and rime e.g. s/at

 Play games with rhyming words;

Begin building familiar words that rhyme using onset and rime e.g. c/at

Write stories together.



# **Tips While Reading**



#### Make It Fun

Find a space where your child feels safe and cosy, snuggle up together. Put lots of expression in your voice while reading and laugh at pictures, stories and nursery rhymes. Role play the story. Dress up!