



Reading Together in Explorers



Introduction

Children learn a great deal from other people. As parents and carers you are your child's first teachers. You have a powerful influence on your child's early learning. From a very early age your child will need to experience a wide range of activities and experiences (for example, singing and saying rhymes, making and listening to music, listening to them and joining in conversations, painting and pretend play) to develop their early reading and writing skills. These activities will help your child take the first important steps towards reading and writing.

One of the first steps to help your child read is Rhyming, saying rhymes, playing games for them to match different rhyming pictures. This starts to support the process of understanding and hearing letters as we blend them together.

Ways to support your child at home:

- Get into the rhythm of language: bounce your child on your knee to the rhythm of a song or nursery rhyme; march or clap to a chant or poem.
- Help your child move to the rhythm of a song or rhyme.
- Read or say poems, songs, nursery songs and rhyming stories as often as you can. Try to use gestures, tap regular beats and pause to emphasise the rhythm of the piece. Add percussion to mark the beats using your hands, feet or instruments.
- Try out some rhythmic chanting such as 'two, four, six, eight, hurry up or we'll be late' or 'bip bop boo, who are you?'

In reception class we continue learning about rhyming and start introducing letters and sounds for the children to understand how letters can be joined together to make words.

When we feel that your child is confident and ready we will introduce some words for them to learn.

Children will then receive a book. This may have only pictures in. This enables them with your support to talk about the pictures, predict how the story might end, make

their own stories based around the pictures. Here they are starting the process of comprehension which is so important to enable a pleasure in reading and a confidence in books.

In class the children may change their books once or twice a week when they will also read with a teacher and a teaching assistant.

Things to do with your child as you read together:

- Before you start look at the cover. Ask your child what s/he thinks the book might be about. Why?
- Talk about the pictures, what is happening on each page.
- What might happen next?
- Point to the words as you read them.
- Read it together
- When you have finished the book ask your child to remember one thing from the book.
- Imagine what the characters might do next.
- Remember reading is fun; enjoy this time reading and sharing a book with your child.

Ways to support your children at home:

Sound Talk

This is a very supportive activity to play with your child. Try breaking down simple words when you are giving instructions or asking questions, such as

"Can you find your h-a-t (hat)?"

"Where is the c-a-t (cat)?"

"Sit on the s-ea-t (seat)."

"Eat your f-oo-d (food)."

Find real objects around your home and practise 'sound talk'. First, just let them listen, then see if they will join in, for example, saying:

"I spy a p-e-g - peg."

"I spy a c-u-p - cup."

"Simon says - touch your ch-i-n - chin."

It is really important to say the sounds (**phonemes**) aloud, in order, all through the word.