



# READING: LEARNING AT HOME

## READING WITH YOUR CHILD IS IMPORTANT!

Your child develops important early reading skills through play and lots of communication. Encourage your child to explore a variety of books and nursery rhymes, and encourage family and friends to read with your child.

Reading shows your child that stories have a beginning, middle and end, and helps them understand the sounds and patterns in words. As your child learns and progresses through school, they rely on these skills to develop learning and social skills, as well as personal skills and understandings.

Becoming a reader takes time. Talking together and exploring books with your child every day helps them develop a love of reading.

### What can I do?

There are many early reading skills your child needs to develop before they become a confident reader. These include skills in speaking and listening, learning about sounds and words, and sharing books together.

Your child learns so much through play. Play includes exploring, discovering, pretending, imagining, building, making and doing.

Try to:

- make time to talk with your child and listen to what they say
- play games like make believe, board games, I Spy and simple card games

- do activities together like going to the zoo, walking to the park, looking at signs, creating shopping lists, and cutting out words and pictures.

### Use your local library

Libraries are a treasure trove for young readers with a wide range of books, CDs, DVDs, magazines and comics. Visiting your local library is a great way to:

- share with your child the value of books and reading
- involve the whole family in regular reading activities
- look for your child's favourite authors and illustrators
- use resources that might not be available at home, such as computers
- join in holiday activities.

### Reading books

*Hairy Maclary and friends* by Lynley Dodd

*Owl babies* by Martin Waddell

*Who sank the boat?* by Pamela Allen

*Meerkat mail* by Emily Gravett

*Wombat goes walkabout* by

Michael Morpurgo

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