

Foundations for a Love of Reading

Sharing books in Nursery

Sharing books is one of the single most important things that you can do with your child. By regularly looking at books and talking about them with your child, you will have a huge, positive impact on your child's reading in Reception and beyond. Indeed, studies have shown that a love of reading is the single biggest indicator of future academic success.

Sharing and talking about books helps your child to:

- understand words and sentences
- use a wide range of vocabulary
- develop listening and comprehension skills.

While this will help them at school, it will also develop their empathy, increase their understanding of the world around them, and strengthen your bond with them.

Little Wandle Foundations for a Love of Reading supports Nursery practitioners to ensure all children develop a love of books. Read on to find out how you can help at home!

Parental involvement in the development of children's reading skill: A five-year longitudinal study. (2002)
Sénéchal, M. and LeFevre, J.





Does it matter how I read with my child?

- Studies show that it is the enjoyment and chat that matters.
- The more you chat together about the book and the things that interest your child, the more impact it has.
- You don't even have to read the words on the page - talking about the pictures is just as important.

Does it matter which language I use?

- Use your home language - it is better for your child to hear expert talk from you in your language.
- Many studies tell us that it is the back-and-forth talk between adults and children when they are sharing books that makes the difference to children's language and comprehension.
- This impact will translate to better language and comprehension skills for your child in English.

Does the type of book matter?

- Let your child be the boss of the books they choose. Their enjoyment is what really matters.
- Comics, information books, magazines, story books, picture books, poems and leaflets are all great for sharing.
- Catalogues are fun to share and talk about, too.

What if they always want to read the same book?

- Repeated reading of books is really beneficial for children. It helps them memorise parts of the story, words and phrases, too.
- Knowing a book or poem by heart is fun and powerful for children. They can 'read' the story with you, or join in with individual words or phrases.
- If you really want to mix it up, offer another book alongside the much-loved favourite!

