

Book Sharing

There are many ways to share books with young children – reading is only one of them! Sharing books looks different for each child, but it can begin as soon as they are born (and even before). Sharing books is a way to create positive memories for children. This helps them make positive connections to books and learning.



Ideas and tips

- **Find a comfortable space.**
Sit close together. Turn off distractions (like the TV, computer, or phone).
- **Make it part of your day.**
Try to share a book every day, even for 15 minutes. It could be part of your bedtime routine or other quiet time.
- **Get children involved.**
Children can hold or touch the book. Let them choose the book. Ask questions, and help them ask, too. *“What do you think happens next?”*
- **Learn from pictures and shapes.**
Point out letters, numbers, and pictures. Use the pictures to tell your own story, or ask them to use the pictures to tell you a story.
- **Use all your senses.**
Change your voice for different characters, look at pictures, imagine sounds and smells, feel the pages.
- **Connect the book to your child’s world.**
Find examples of things your child already knows. *“This cat is like the cat next door!”* or *“Remember when we saw a bear, too?”*
- **Share a story in your home language.**
Share the story (or make up your own!) in the language(s) you use every day. You can use a book in any language.



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It's okay...

... **if your child doesn't want to finish the book.**

Practice opening and closing the book. Stop, and start the story again another time. You don't need to read it all every time.

... **to do something else if children are fussy or restless.**

Come back to the book later, so sharing the book is a positive time for both of you.

... **if a child picks the same favourite book** that you

read many, many times. It's an important part of memory and learning, too!

Did you know?

- Sharing books builds an emotional bond between children, their families, and books. These bonds help strengthen children's learning and prepares them for school and life.
- Book sharing is great way to help children build their language and memory skills, and learn letters and shapes.
- Sharing books helps children know that words and books have meaning, and builds language and communication skills.
- Any positive way you share a book together is good! Make up your own story, look at pictures, read the book, imagine a different ending.



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