



# Family Literacy Tip Sheets

## Tips for Sharing Books

There is more to sharing a book than just reading the words on a page. Help your child become actively engaged in the book. Book sharing is a way to explore the world together.

### Getting Started

- Let your child choose a book. Tell them the name of the book and ask what they think it is about.
- Read slowly, discuss the pictures, and ask them what they think will happen next.
- Have your child close to you when you read but don't worry if they won't sit still for the whole book – they are still listening.

### Reading along

- From time to time, as you read, track the words with your finger so your child sees how the words work on the page. Point out details in the pictures to help your child understand what is happening.
- Use your voice to hold the child's attention. They love it when you use expression when you read.
- Encourage your child to repeat important phrases. This helps them to be included as a reader.
- Together act out what is being read. If a character is swimming, pretend to swim.
- You can try "paired reading" where you read together to help build your child's confidence in reading aloud.
- Continue to read with your child even after they are reading books on their own.
- Take cues from your child – they will let you know if they have had enough or if they want more.

### Talking about it

- Talk about the story with your child.
- Help your child connect actions, themes or characters with other books they have read.
- Encourage interaction with the story by pointing to the pictures and asking open-ended questions. Interacting with the story helps with comprehension.

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## Signs of Reading and Writing Development in Young Children

Children will go through various stages of learning to read and write. The more experiences they have with language, books and print, the more opportunities they have to develop these skills.

### Reading

- Showing interest when someone reads
- Turning pages
- Pointing to pictures
- Pretending to read
- Naming letters
- Joining in or repeating phrases of a familiar story
- Asking what a word “says” or asking where a certain word is on a page
- Picking out letters, such as those in their names, or words on a page

### Writing

- Watching closely when another person writes
- Scribbling
- Making scribbles that look a bit like letters
- Telling you what a scribble “says”
- Producing what look like “words” for others to read
- Writing labels for objects
- Making lists
- Using their own spelling for words

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