

Sharing a story at bedtime is a chance to enjoy some special time together. Children will benefit greatly if you read aloud with them even if they have started to read themselves. They will learn new words and it helps to make reading fun and something to look forward to.....

***Why is bedtime reading important?***

When your child brings a reading book home from school, encourage them to share the book with you first so that you can try and help with any difficult words. Let them choose a book to read together (there is lots of choice at the library!). Children love to look at stories again that they used to enjoy when they were younger. You could take it in turns to read a page each....

***Which books should I choose?***

***How do I go about it?***

**You don't have to 'read' a book, Try making up stories by looking at the pictures- This is just as good and fun!**

***Where should we read?***

You don't have to be in bed as long as you cuddle up together. (Being close is just as important when children get older!).

-Make sure the TV is switched off so they can't be distracted!

-Point to the pictures and talk about them together

- Try asking questions... "What do you think will happen next?" "How do you think she feels about that?", "Tell me what's happening in the picture?"

***What else could I do?***

Try to remember stories that you were told as a child, fairy tales like Red Riding Hood would be perfect or make up some new stories together

- ✚ Sharing books with your child will help them to become more confident readers themselves and make sure they think reading is fun.
- ✚ Talking about the pictures and making up stories together will help your child's talking and develop their story building skills.
- ✚ Children who have the opportunities to read and share books with adults at home will be more likely to do well at school.
- ✚ Reading together will be a time of the day you will all look forward to!!



Adapted from 'booktrusts Top Tips for bedtime reading' For more tips and ideas look at [www.booktrust.org.uk](http://www.booktrust.org.uk) or visit the Library.



