

# Getting ready to read

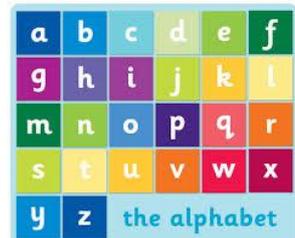


To support young children in their reading development, they need lots of opportunities to listen to and tune into sounds. This can be done through music, rhymes and listening games. They also need to develop an understanding of letter sounds and names and an awareness of what letters look like. There are lots of fun ways you can support your child with their reading development. Don't forget to read every day. Children who hear lots of stories will become confident readers. Talking to your child, sharing stories together and ensuring reading experiences are meaningful and age appropriate will help them develop a love of reading.

## The Alphabet

Children need a thorough knowledge of the alphabet in order to support their phonic knowledge and reading development. It's important children know letter names and sounds.

- Go for letter hunts when you are out and about
- Count letters in words
- Play 'I Spy'
- Play with letters eg. in play dough or sand
- Play alphabet bingo
- Talk about letters and patterns in words
- Draw children's attention to the letters in their name.



## Tuning into Sound

Children need to develop good listening skills so they can hear individual letter sounds (phonemes).

- Play listening games
- Go for a sound walk
  - Collect objects beginning with the same sound
    - Make shakers
    - Add sound effects to stories
- Hide some noisy objects and see if your child can identify the sounds.

## Rhythm and Rhyme

Helping children to tune into rhythm and rhyme helps them hear the pattern and rhythm in language and reading. Hearing and saying rhymes is an important part of learning to read.

### Rhyming Books

Share some rhyming books with your child. Encourage them to read with you and complete the rhyme. These are some favourites: Room on the Broom, The Gruffalo, Brown Bear, Brown Bear and Oi Frog!

### Rhyming pairs

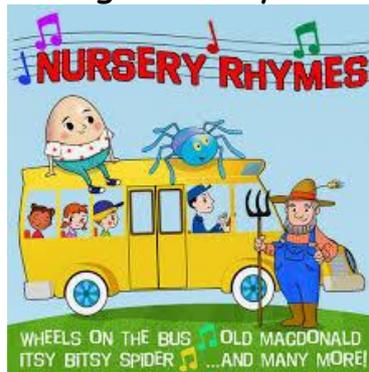
Find pairs of objects or pictures that rhyme.

For example: cat and hat, pig and wig, fox and socks, mole and hole.

Mix the objects or picture up and then help your child match the rhyming pairs.

### Songs and Rhymes

Sing some songs and rhymes every day!



### Fun with language

Don't be afraid to have fun with language and play with it. Make up silly sentences and rhymes or have a go at some alliterative tongue twisters. It doesn't matter if it's a made-up word.

For example:

Charlie Barley

Tim has ten, tickly, tiny toes

### Music

Clapping the rhythm to rhymes and songs or playing instruments will help your child feel the beat and rhythm in language.

You don't need to have expensive instruments you could always use wooden spoons to tap out a rhythm.

