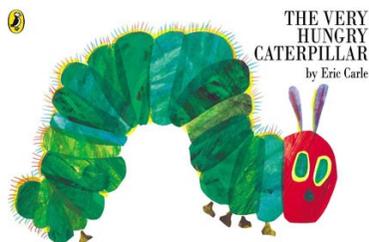


## Top Tips For Sharing Books

- Find a quiet place. Turn off the TV or radio so there are no distractions.
- As well as reading the story, talk about the pictures. If there's a picture of a dog, talk about a dog that you know.
- Give your child time to respond to your chatter. Don't put any pressure on your child to name the pictures, but if she copies your words, praise her and say the words again for her.
- Visit your library for different books – it's free to join. Don't worry if books get damaged; libraries understand that this sometimes happens.
- Don't read for too long. Young children get bored quickly so little and often is best.
- Let other grown-ups – grandparents, carers and older brothers and sisters – join in too.
- It's good to share favourite books again and again. Repetition helps children to understand and remember the language they hear.



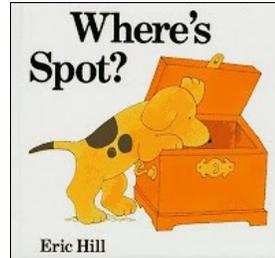
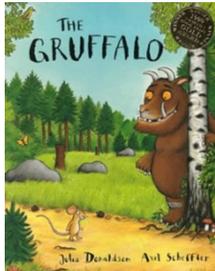
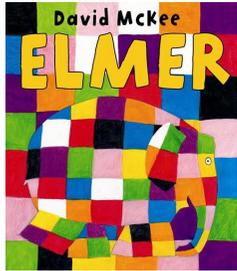
# Sharing books with your child

“Children are made readers on the laps of their parents”

(Emilie Buchwald Children's Author)



# The benefits of reading



**1 Children who read often and widely get better at it**, after all, practising helps us to get better at things we do.

**2 Reading exercises our brains** and even helps to build new connections.

**3 Reading improves concentration** as children have to sit quietly to focus on the story. If they read regularly they develop the ability to do this for longer periods.

**4 Reading teaches children about the world.** They learn about people and places and events outside of their own experience.

**5 Reading improves a child's vocabulary and leads to highly developed language skills** because children learn new words as they read but also unconsciously take on information about how to order and use words in different ways.

**6 Reading develops imagination** because our brain turns the descriptions of people, places and events into pictures. Children also imagine how a character is feeling and how they might feel in the same situation.

**7 Reading helps develop empathy** as children imagine how a character is feeling.

**8 Children who read do better at school** across all subjects and all the way through school.

**9 Reading is a great form of entertainment.** A paperback or e-reader doesn't take up much space in a bag and can be read anywhere, on the bus, waiting at the doctor's, waiting for the doors to open at school in the morning.

**10 Reading relaxes the body and calms the mind.** The constant movement, flashing lights and noise which bombard our senses when we are watching TV, looking at a computer or playing an electronic game can be stressful

**“Reading aloud to children is known to be the single most important activity for building the knowledge and skills they will eventually require for learning to read”** Marilyn Jager Adams (Child development expert)