

READING:
LEARNING AT HOME

READING STAGES

Your child goes through different stages as they learn to read. Remember that children learn in different ways and at different rates, so be patient and always encourage your child's efforts.

Read things your child really enjoys so they learn to love reading!

Role-play readers

As your child grows and develops, they begin to take an interest in books and the words they see around them.

They may start to imitate you by holding books the right way up, turning the pages carefully and pretending to read by using the pictures and their memory to retell stories. They also learn the difference between the front and back of a book, understand that words and pictures are different, and that printed words contain messages.

You can support your child by:

- reading with them every day
- encouraging and praising any attempts at pretend reading
- showing them that pictures help tell the story
- reading their favourite stories again and again – familiarity builds confidence
- not criticising them when they make mistakes – learning to read takes time!

Experimental readers

During this stage, your child often reads by looking at the pictures and using their memory of a story. They also recognise some words, but their focus is on the meaning of a text rather than reading every word properly.

You can support your child by:

- reading with them every day
- encouraging them to have a go at reading and praising their attempts
- talking with them about sounds, words and interesting features in books and other texts like labels, shopping lists and newspapers
- talking with them about book characters and storylines
- encouraging them to express opinions about what happens in a story
- continue reading their favourite stories again and again.

Turn off the television. It's easier for your child to concentrate when there are no distractions.

