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# READING: LEARNING AT HOME

## READING WITH YOUR CHILDREN IS IMPORTANT!

Your children develop important early reading skills through play and lots of communication. Encourage your children to explore a variety of books and nursery rhymes, and encourage family and friends to read with your children.

Your children continue to learn that stories have a beginning, middle and end, and reading gives them opportunities to listen to and talk about sounds, words and patterns. Reading also helps your children explore new ideas, words and information.

Becoming a reader takes time. Talking together, exploring books and reading with your children every day help them develop a love of books and reading.

### What can I do?

There are many early reading skills that your children need to develop before they become confident readers. These include skills in speaking and listening, learning about sounds and words, and sharing books together.

As your children continue learning to read, it is important you help them develop these skills at home through play. Choose games that focus on speaking and listening skills like *Simon Says*, watch and explore the world around you, and of course read lots.

### Reading books

*Owl babies* by Martin Waddell

*Koala Lou* by Mem Fox

*Meerkat mail* by Emily Gravett

*Annie's chair* by Deborah Niland

*Diary of a wombat* by Jackie French

### Use your local library

Libraries are a treasure trove for young readers with a wide range of books, CDs, DVDs, magazines and comics. Visiting your local library is a great way to:

- share with your children the value of books and reading
- involve the whole family in regular reading activities
- look for your children's favourite authors and illustrators
- use resources that might not be available at home, such as computers
- join in holiday activities.

**There are lots of things to read including nursery rhymes; story books; non-fiction books; books on dinosaurs and pets; books you make together; funny stories and poems; joke books; websites and CD books; comic books; newspapers, catalogues and magazines; recipe books; street maps; and dictionaries.**



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