READING: LEARNING AT HOME

READING STAGES

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!

Reading ideas

When reading with your child:

- have them look at the pictures and tell you what the story might be about
- every now and then stop and ask: *What do you think will happen next?* and *What makes you think that?* – accept their answers even if they aren't quite right

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

- answer your child's questions even if they interrupt the flow of the story
- make storytelling and reading fun by making sounds of different animals and changing your voice for different characters.

After you have finished reading with your child:

- talk about the story
- get them to retell the story to you
- talk about what happened and when and where it happened, for example: *Who was your favourite person in the story?*

> **Other reading ideas:**
> • **Talk about the pictures in the book and get your child to make up their own story.**
> • **Visit your local library for storytelling sessions and to borrow audio books.**
> • **Give your child books as presents.**
> • **Encourage your child to listen for the sounds in words they recognise, for example *sh*.**
> • **Get your child to look for letters they may know such as letters in their name.**

Department of **Education**

You'll find more learning at home factsheets at education.wa.edu.au.