



Book Talk

Supporting Interactive Book Reading at Home



Before Reading



- **Prepare your child to listen to the book** (e.g. find somewhere to sit or lie with them, explain that we look with our eyes and listen with our ears)
- For young children: **Help your child to increase their awareness of books and print** (e.g. hold the book the wrong way or turn pages from back to front and encourage your child to tell you the right way).
- **Look at and comment on the title of the book, the author's name, the pictures on the front and back covers, the blurb on the back cover** etc.
- **Point to clues to help your child guess what the story might be about** (from the title and pictures etc.).

Ask open-ended questions. This helps your child think about the story.

- *I wonder why...?*
- *I wonder if...?*
- *What might happen...?*



During Reading

Make comments about the story. This helps your child to link the story to his/her own experiences.

- *I don't think I'd like...*
- *When I was small I was scared of...*
- *I love doing...*



Encourage your child to comment as well.

Explain key vocabulary. Pick words that are not too easy and not too hard.



Give a simple definition or example, act out the word, use gestures, show relevant pictures in the book and/or use real objects.

After Reading



Follow-up experiences to activate new words

- **Chat** about the book and related topics with your child and/or others (e.g. siblings, other parent etc.). Give opportunities for your child to ask and answer questions *e.g. if reading a story about animals you could talk about the time your family visited a farm/the zoo etc.*
- **Re-read** the same book often *e.g. several times during the week/month*
- **Sing songs and rhymes** *e.g. sing "the bear went over the mountain" after reading Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?*
- **Role play/pretend play.** Act out the story using props. Use small figures to act out parts of the story *e.g. lego figures, animal figures, dolls, teddies etc.*
- **Sensory play ideas** *e.g. water play in the sink/bath/a basin after reading Five Little Ducks.*
- **Arts and crafts.** Items related to themes or specific vocabulary in the story.