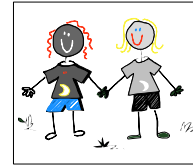


Information and advice from:



**Early Development and
Inclusion Team**

Supporting Inclusion at the
Early Years Foundation Stage



Sharing Books

Sharing books is a wonderful way to help your child's language development, and it's the ideal opportunity to share a cuddle at the same time.

- Be at your child's level and turn off the TV or radio so there are no distractions.
- Choose motivating and interactive books such as lift-the-flap books or books with mirrors, puppets, sounds etc.
- Follow your child's lead. You don't need to start at the beginning and read every page in order.
- Encourage them to turn a page and explore, by lifting flaps or pointing at pictures.
- Look at the same books over and over again; your child will not get bored. Repetition helps children to understand and remember the language they hear.
- As well as reading the story, talk about the pictures. Start with the big picture then look for smaller details.
- Try not to ask too many questions, instead comment on what you can see.
- Give your child time to respond to your comments. If your child copies you then praise them and repeat the word again.
- Try pausing at the end of familiar refrains and see if your child can fill in the gap, e.g. 'We're going on a' (Bear Hunt).
- Remember, you're not teaching your child to read, but supporting their language development through, looking, listening, copying and practising.