

# Reading 2-3 years

## Did you know?

At this age, children are beginning to connect the idea of stories with books. Reading together will introduce your child to new words and increase their vocabulary. It's also a lovely way to relax and spend time together.



## How can you help?

- Use books in a variety of situations like in the car, in the bath, joined to your buggy, in the garden or in the kitchen.
- Try using a cookery book when you're making cakes with your child.
- Turn off the TV and radio as too much background noise is distracting for both of you.
- Look at books with flaps to lift and sound buttons to push.
- Read stories with lots of repetition as your child will like to join in. Leave a gap if there is a phrase they know well so they can say it.
- Sing and say lots of rhymes and songs and do the actions together. Most libraries run sessions where you can meet other parents and learn some new rhymes as well as enjoying your favourites.
- Read some books that are not stories so you can talk about facts, especially if your child is interested in something like animals or cars.
- If you're telling your child a story about something that really happened, like when you went to the seaside, see what they can remember and ask them to help you to tell it in the right order.
- Make books about things your child is interested in by cutting pictures out of magazines together.
- Make a visit to your local library part of your regular family routine. You can borrow an amazing variety of books, it's free and easy to join and children can have their own library card.



## What I like

- To interact with books by lifting flaps or pressing sound buttons.
- To be independent and choose my own books.
- To hear about myself in a story that you've made up or that really happened.
- To hear familiar stories again and again.

## What I can do

- Look at books on my own and turn the pages myself.
- Point to pictures in a book when you say "show me" because I can understand lots of words.
- Connect real objects with pictures in books.
- Recognise familiar books by what is on the cover.
- Tell stories to myself by looking at the pictures in a book.
- Listen to longer stories and join in with ones I know well.

Children develop at their own rates and in their own ways. The above is typical ranges of development. If you have any concerns about your child's development, speak to your GP or health visitor for advice.