

# Reading 3-4 years

## Did you know?

Your child is beginning to understand how stories work and that the words on the page mean something.

Reading together will help them start to make sense of those words and recognise some letters.



## How can you help?

- Use books in a variety of situations and match them to what your child is doing. For example: You could have a book about transport with your child's box of cars.
- Read stories with lots of repetition as your child will like to join in and tell you what is going to happen next.
- Point to words as you read them.
- Make up voices for the different characters in a story.
- When you finish a story, ask your child to tell you what happened. You could draw pictures together or dress up and act it out.
- Make books about things your child is interested in by cutting pictures out of magazines together.
- Make up stories about your child, or about when you were little, or about your child's favourite toy.
- Read poetry and stories that rhyme and pause so your child can say the rhyming words.
- Let your child see you reading.
- Let your child listen to stories on CD. You can borrow audio books from your local library.
- Visit your local library and help your child to find books they'd like to borrow. It's free and easy to join and children can have their own library card. Most libraries also run storytime sessions where you can both be introduced to some new stories as well as listening to old favourites.
- Point out words and phrases on shops and signs when you are out and about. Children can recognise familiar words really quickly.



## What I like

- To hear about myself in a story.
- To catch you out when you make a mistake in a story I know well.
- To find information in books about things I am interested in.

## What I can do

- Listen to longer stories.
- Join in with stories I know well and talk about what is happening.
- Tell you what might happen next in a story.
- Answer questions like "what's happening in the picture?".
- Retell stories I know well.
- Look at books on my own.

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.