

**GENERAL
INFORMATION
LEAFLETS**

READING TOGETHER WITH YOUR BABY AND TODDLER

WHY READ TO YOUR BABY/TODDLER



It gives your child the experience of language, rhythm and sounds from the earliest age.

Pre-school children who are exposed to lots of language (from books and conversation) tend to do better in school.



It is a great way to bond with your child.

It can be very calming, so bed-time story is more than just a treat.

When your baby tries to focus on a picture it can help develop eye-muscles.

Each time your baby hears a word, it imprints more strongly in his brain - the more he hears the word, the better he will learn it.

HOW TO READ TO YOUR BABY/TODDLER

Reading with your young child must be relaxing and fun and should not be a chore for either of you, so choose a time when you are able to focus on and enjoy the activity.

Find a quiet, comfortable place, and sit together so that your child can see the book too.

You can use books with songs /stories that you like reading, and just read so that your baby can enjoy the sound of your voice and hear the rhythms of language. It does not matter that they do not understand what you are talking about!

Use a slow sing-song voice for the story.

Make sound effects with your voice, or different voices for different characters - be entertaining.

You can also use books with large, simple pictures of objects or animals, with bold colours such as red, green, blue and black.

For babies, you point to the pictures and say the names - this will help your child focus on specific sounds.

For toddlers you can say the names of objects on the page and ask them to point to the picture, or later point to the picture and ask your child the name of the object.

Give **big** praise when your child points at or names a picture.



WHAT IF I HAVE READING DIFFICULTIES MYSELF

At this stage you don't have to be very good at reading. When your baby is young you can just tell a story about the pictures, and not even read at all. Most books for very young children do not have much text, and you can read slowly. You could also practise reading the story before reading to your child.

If you would like help to improve your reading skills, there are groups which will help adults with their reading. Ask about adult literacy support at the Citizen's Advice Bureau or your GP or Education Office.

OTHER ACTIVITIES THAT DEVELOP PRE-READING SKILLS

Language - The more experience children have of language, the more easily they should learn to read. Your baby/toddler needs to hear and join in conversations, and listen to stories and songs.

As well as including them in the general language of the family, you can try specific activities -

At the youngest age you can have "conversations" with your child by copying the sounds they make and waiting to see if they repeat them again. Do it again if they respond - and again and again!

As your baby grows, you can hold up or give them familiar objects (eg cup/ball/sock) and say just the name clearly. Wait silently to see if they copy you. Give lots of praise if they do, or repeat the word for them.

Later, when your child is using lots of single words you can say 2 words together to encourage them to join up words (eg Dolly jump/Mummy sit/Wash hands). Do this as a commentary while they are watching what is happening.

Rhyming - Children who understand about rhyming words have a head start in learning to read. When your child is very young you can say/sing all the nursery rhymes, just for him to listen and enjoy the sounds. Later you can say the line and leave off the rhyming word at the end to see if they can fill it in, eg Little Bo ---- Has lost her -----
Fill it in for them if they cannot manage it.

Looking at books - Right from the start keep books and newspapers around the house so that your child grows up knowing that reading is part of life. Show them how you turn the pages; point to where you start reading so that they see that print goes from left to right; show them that you love looking at books.

Have books that they can have to play with themselves in their cot etc, eg cloth books, cardboard books - always check these books for safety.

Visit the library with your child. They should have books suitable for all ages and may even do story time and other events for very young children.

The main point at this very early stage is to have **fun** with your child and let him see that books and reading are an everyday part of life - something to enjoy.





SHARED READING - PARENT GROUPS

GENERAL INFORMATION LEAFLET FOR PARENTS

The main purpose of the Shared Reading Groups is to look at ways in which parents can help their pre-school children learn to enjoy books and become familiar with the printed word.



WHAT HAPPENS

- ❖ 5 Friendly sessions.
- ❖ All parents of the nursery class are invited.
- ❖ No more than 10 adults in every group
- ❖ Children will join the workshops at appropriate times.
- ❖ Sessions will be led by 2 trained adults.
- ❖ You will be asked to read to your child regularly at home for short spells.
- ❖ Learning will be through demonstration, discussion and practice.

WE LOOK AT VOCABULARY BUILDING, RHYME, RHYTHM AND INITIAL SOUNDS IN WORDS

- ❖ Praise and sharing a book in a quiet corner helps children learn to enjoy books
- ❖ Games and ways of sharing books which will improve your child's vocabulary.
- ❖ Games and ways of sharing books which will help your child's sense of rhyme. This helps children break down words into syllables which helps learning reading.
- ❖ Games and ways of sharing books which will help your child's sense of rhythm. Again this will help children break words into syllables.
- ❖ Games and ways of sharing books which will help children hear how a word starts and how to identify individual letters.



THESE GROUPS HAVE BEEN PROVEN TO WORK
AND REALLY HELP YOUR CHILD LEARN TO
READ.

Highland Council Psychological Service



Works for Positive Change

READING TOGETHER 1st STEPS PARENT GROUPS

GENERAL INFORMATION LEAFLET FOR PARENTS



The main purpose of the Reading Together 1st Steps Groups is to look at things that parents can do which have been demonstrated to improve both how well their child can read and their child's confidence with the written word.

WHAT HAPPENS

- ❖ 4 Friendly sessions.
- ❖ All parents of children in the class are invited to the groups
- ❖ No more than 10 adults attend any one group
- ❖ Children will join the groups at appropriate times.
- ❖ Sessions will be led by 2 trained adults.
- ❖ Learning will be through demonstration, discussion and practice.
- ❖ You will be asked to read along with your child regularly at home for short spells.

WE LOOK AT WAYS TO HELP YOUR CHILD TO START TO READ

- ❖ Getting the setting right
- ❖ Ways of sharing books and making it a positive, happy time.
- ❖ How to get started.
- ❖ 3 main ways children learn to read.
- ❖ Supported reading: a successful approach to developing your child's reading.





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Works for Positive Change

READING TOGETHER - PARENT GROUPS

GENERAL INFORMATION LEAFLET FOR PARENTS



The main purpose of the Reading Together Parent Groups is to look at things that parents can do which we know will improve their child's reading.



WHAT HAPPENS

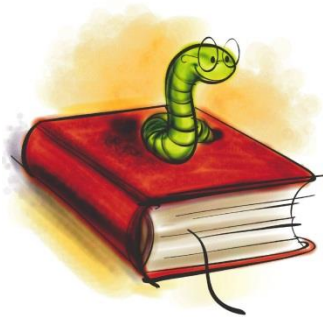
- 5 Friendly sessions.
- All parents of the class are invited.
- No more than 10 adults at any one group
- Children will join the workshops at appropriate times.
- Sessions will be lead by 2 trained adults.
- You will be asked to read regularly with your child at home.
- Learning will be through demonstration, discussion and practice.

WE LOOK AT A RANGE OF FACTORS TO HELP LEARNING

FOR EXAMPLE

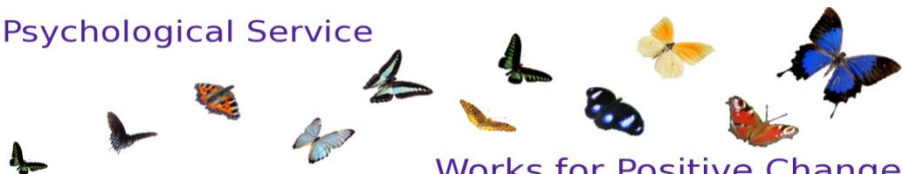
- Getting the setting right for hearing your child read at home.
- How to choose a book at the right level of reading.
- The need for regular praise when hearing your child reading and how this can best be done.
- How to deal with reading when your child gets stuck with a word or makes a mistake.





**THESE GROUPS
HAVE BEEN PROVEN TO WORK
AND REALLY IMPROVE
CHILDREN'S READING**

Highland Council Psychological Service



Works for Positive Change