

Reading stories to children.

18th October 2017



Reading stories to children.

In this session we will.

- Why should we read stories to our children?
- What language should I read stories to my children in?
- What can I expect my child to do and how can I help.
- Practical tips when reading with your child.
- Resources.
- Important things to remember.



The British School of Beijing, Shunyi

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Why should we read stories to our children?

- It develops a strong relationship between you and your child.
- It is a pre cursor to being successful in school.
- It is the start to developing language in your child.
- It shows your child how to read a book and look after it.
- It develops their communication skills.
- It can be an introduction to new experiences.
- It develops their concentration.
- It shows them that reading is fun.

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What language should I read stories to my child in?

- In your home language, your 'mother tongue'.
- We are in an International school our children come from many different places and it is important to read to and talk to your child in their home language.
- We want their home language to be celebrated, promoted and supported and that is why we say you must continue to use it when communicating with your child.
- Bilingualism stimulates brain development and helps children learn because they can think about their ideas in two (or more) languages.
- A child who develops a good understanding in their own language is more likely to go on to learn English.
- Children's brains are able to cope with different languages and learn when to use them.



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What should I expect my child to be able to do and how can I help.

- Birth-11 months; share board books or cloth books with your child.
- 8-20 months; Let them explore different books – board, paper, small, big; let them point to things or tell you things as you share favourite stories with them; let your child see that you like books too.
- 16-26 months; Take you child to the library; let them hold the book as you share the story; talk about what is happening in the pictures or who you can see in the pictures and let them help you turn the pages of the book.
- 22-36 month; Let them turn the pages in books; let them use toys to help tell the stories that you read; as you read very familiar stories stop at different parts and let them tell you the missing word; let them explore lots of books from the library or nursery with their friends and on their own.

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What should I expect my child to be able to do and how can I help.

- 30-50 months; Read signs to them when you are out and about; let them read and share books with you; let them choose their own books when you go to the library; make a pretend shop where they can read the labels on the packets and boxes; read a recipe to your child as you cook together; make up your own stories and write down what your child tells you and then read it together.
- 40-60 months; Let your child read to and sharing books with you; let them read to you and ask interesting questions about the story; make a puppet theatre with the from a cardboard box and puppets, cut out of comics or pictures from websites to make up new stories; make and play games with them that use letters or words; play games where you give them an instruction like “Can you j-um-p?” or “Can you h-o-p?” and they have to put the sounds of the word together and show you the action; ask your child to tell you about their favourite books.



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Practical tips for reading with your child.

- It should be a quiet time with your child, perhaps as part of your bed time routine.
- Make sure you have no interruptions.
- It doesn't have to be an extended period of time. Depending on how old your child is will determine how long they will want to sit.
- Never force a child to read, but invite them to share a story with you.
- Let your child see you read.
- Have books, magazines, picture books, information books out for your child to access.
- Suggest to a friend about doing a book swop.
- Go to the library (maybe that is something you can do when you are in your home country on holiday).
- Use books as way of finding out information or when you cook together.

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Resources.

- www.booktrust.org.uk/resources
- www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk
- www.literacytrust.org.uk/early_years
- www.readongeton.org.uk
- <https://literacytrust.org.uk/>

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Remember

- Reading aloud to your child and talking is the best way to develop your child's language.
- Reading to and sharing books with babies and young children, and giving them time to respond, feeds their brain, helps them learn new words and grows their vocabulary.

- The next workshop is on 1st November and will be an opportunity to find out about some practical strategies for behavioural management.



Thank you.