



READING: LEARNING AT HOME

MORE READING IDEAS

Reading together

When you are reading with your children:

- encourage them to read to you
- talk about what is happening in the story and the pictures
- point out key words in the story and explain words they might not know
- get them to show you words they do know

Playing pretend games such as shop, school, garage, house and restaurant help children learn about words and how reading is used in everyday life.

- stop and ask: *What do you think will happen next?* and *What makes you think that?* – accept their answers, even if they aren't quite right
- encourage them to join in with rhyming words or phrases repeated through the story
- ask *why* questions for example: *Why do you think the author put that in the story?*
- answer their questions even if they interrupt the flow of the story – remember you asked for their opinions!

Read things your children really enjoy so they learn to love reading!

When your children come to a word they don't know, encourage them to look at the letters of the word and get them to attempt to sound out all or parts of the word – give them time to do this.

After you have finished reading with your children:

- get them to retell the story in their own words to you or another family member
- ask about events and characters, for example: *Who was your favourite character?* and *Where did that event happen?*
- compare the characters in the book with people you know
- talk about why the book was written and the messages in the story
- ask them what they learned if the book contains lots of facts
- point out the name of the author and, if they enjoy the book, suggest reading another book by the same author.

The way you read a story to your children can make a big difference to how much they enjoy it. Make sounds of different animals and change your voice for different characters.

You'll find more
learning at home factsheets
at education.wa.edu.au.