

Playtime with Books

Book Sharing to support young children's learning and play!

This is the work of the Playtime with Books team at PEDAL at the Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge. This work was developed from the work of Professor Lynne Murray and Professor Peter Cooper.

Book sharing is an engaging activity where adults play and spend time with little ones using books. It isn't about reading the book, but rather using the book itself, and the words and pictures inside, to be playful.

Sit closely

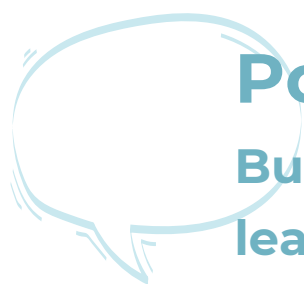
so that you can see what has caught your child's attention.



Follow your child's lead

Let them set the pace and show you what they are interested in.

Don't worry if they are holding it upside down or working through it backwards – the main goal is to support your child to explore the book any way they like.



Point, name and repeat words

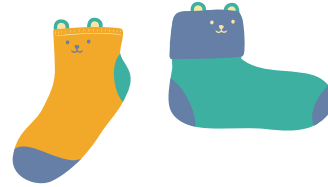
Build on what you say to help your child learn more about what interests them.

You can also repeat any words or word attempts that your child makes. Show them that you understand what they are saying and gently support them to learn new words.



Link things to your child's life

This could be something right then and there in the moment or something that they have experienced before and can remember.



Look! The little boy is wearing socks!
Here are your socks!

Use and talk about emotions

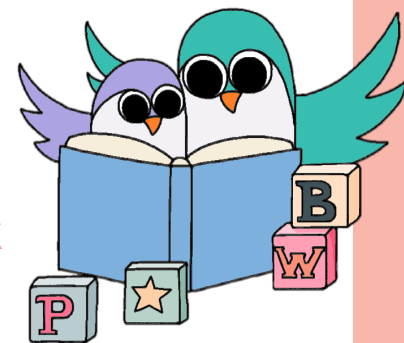


Use and exaggerate facial expressions and your tone of voice. You can label the feelings that characters in the book are experiencing and talk to your child about a time when they might have felt the same.

* **Set up a daily routine.** Look out for a time when your child is not tired and hungry, and where you can spend some time with them.

* **Find a quiet space** where distractions are at a minimum to help the two of you settle in and focus on the activity.

* **Sit side-by-side or with your child on your lap** to help them explore the book and feel extra close to you!



The most important thing to remember when you are book sharing with your child is just to **have fun!**