

The benefits of reading stories

Stories are important for many different aspects of development. It is important to read a range of different books to children and ideally do this in small numbers so that you can ensure each child is getting the most out of the story and respond to their input.



Vocabulary

The more diverse books children are exposed to, the more words they understand. They also develop word webs in their minds where they understand different words with similar meanings through this exposure e.g. happy, glad, merry, joyous, jolly. This expands their vocabulary.



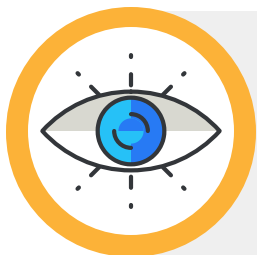
Literary concepts

By reading stories with children you can highlight different aspects of the books to the children to support their knowledge of books. This includes reading top left to bottom right, turning pages, looking at the illustrations to support understanding from the words etc.



Explore concepts

Through reading different types of literary media with children you can explore a range of different concepts with them to expand their knowledge. This could be picture books, magazines, non-fiction books, books made of the children's experiences etc.



Build observation skills

Through reading picture books children can develop their observation skills. Encouraging children to use the illustrations to identify representations of the story, look at what other information there is outside the main story, and look for clues for what will happen next.



Relationships

Reading with children develops close relationships as it is a time to bond with children and give them your attention. This is why it is important to invest time in the story with children and respond to their ideas, cues and suggestions so they feel valued and respected.