

Storytelling with your Children at Home

Reading books with your children gives them a reason to listen and something to remember. find a place where there will be no distractions, or maybe you could make a reading den or snuggle down on some comfy cushions, bean bags or the sofa. Make it relaxing turn off the TV and enjoy the shared focus. Here are some of the benefits to reading with your child:

- Helps them with focused attention
- Shared focus
- Develop an understanding
- Express through language /repeating, speaking, and echoing what they have heard
- Using their own thinking and imagination

Think of your child's favourite book or the last book you read with your child. How can you extend your child's learning with the book?

Example book- We're going on a bear hunt

At the end of the story go through the book with your child. allow them to tell the story to you. Let them tell it in their own words and at their own pace. This way they are developing their own imagination of the story.

What words did your child remember?

Did they make any sound effects?

Did they use actions?

Remember children learn by listening to you. if you do not put in the sounds effects or the actions then they might not either. As children become more knowledgeable of the story they will extend their own learning. For this to be done, it is good to repeat books to allow children to get to know the story well.

Questions you could ask:

- What noise did the mud make?
- Do you think the mud was wet or dry?
- Did you like the storm?
- Where did we stumble and trip?
- Why did we stumble and trip?
- Where was the bear?
- How did you feel when the bear was there?

Depending on the child's age you would adapt the questions or just make comments using single words to point at different pictures in the book. Remember these are just some ideas you do not have to ask lots of questions, wait for them to respond before you ask another question. If the child talks about the book themselves, use their own questioning to respond to them, so they can extend what they are saying. they could also draw a picture of the bear, or make a cave and act out the story with you and other family members.