

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.**

