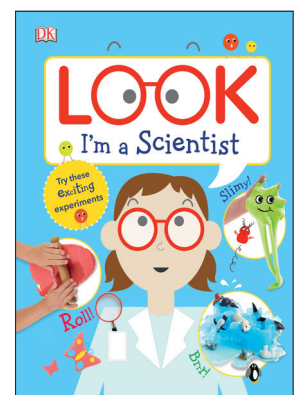
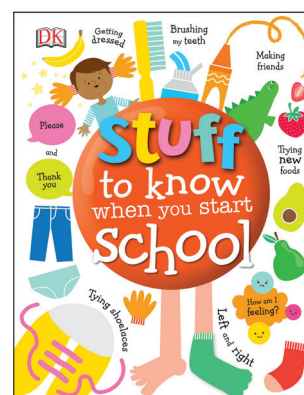
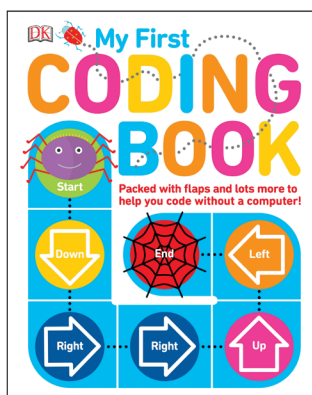
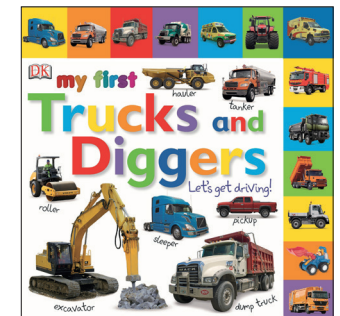


Reading tips for parents and carers





Reading tips for parents and carers

by Gill Budgell

Reading books in a collection with young children

There are lots of different ways to enjoy sharing a book with your child. Here are some tips:

● Reading for pleasure

Once your child starts nursery or school, they begin to learn about letters and sounds (phonics) to support their independent reading and writing. But the books in a collection are different. They will not usually be at the right level for children to read independently. The content is not controlled in the same way as a book that is designed for very early independent reading.

Books are for sharing; you can talk about books with your child and model choosing what to read, holding and turning the pages, and how to share content in different ways. While the content may relate to nursery or school topics, the primary aim is reading for pleasure. You will be talking about the book with your child or reading it aloud for them.

If children want to take the lead with sharing and 'reading' a book to you or with you, encourage this to build confidence and pleasure, even if the reading is not entirely accurate!

● Process

Think about the whole process of sharing a book when time allows. Enjoy before, during and after the reading – it's about the whole process!

Before you start reading:

- Choose the book together. Make sure it's one the child wants to engage with.
- You may start by looking at the front cover, the back cover or even by flicking through the book. This may happen as you select the book together or once you've chosen it.
- You may ask:

why do you like the look of this one?

what do you think this is going to be about?

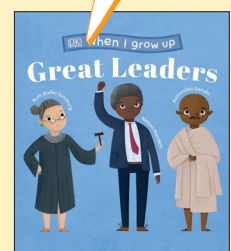


● Returning to a book

Many young children enjoy revisiting and re-reading the same book several times. It will develop confidence and allow time for your child to show what they remember or what they know. Jokes may entertain them just as much on the tenth reading as the first... and this familiarity brings security, comfort and pleasure.

Encourage your child to talk about their favourite books and those they don't enjoy so much – ask why!

Again, again!



During your reading of the book:

- For a storybook, you may want to read aloud to your child, stopping now and then to talk about the characters, what is happening and what might happen next. You may enjoy talking about the pictures. You might relate the story to your child's experiences or opinions where possible.
- For non-fiction you may also want to read aloud, but you may choose to stop on some pages and not others – you may graze through the book, stopping to share details according to your child's interests. You may be pointing to different pictures on the page, or in some cases, touching or moving parts or flaps in the book. Reading can be active!

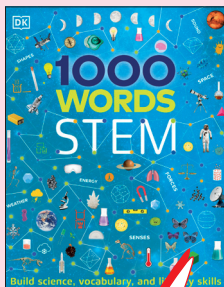
After reading the book:

- There will be times when practicalities mean that you've finished the book and it's too late, or everyone is too tired or fidgety to do anymore. That's life! But when possible, talking about a book to revisit the story or the information, or your child's preferences or opinions, can be hugely valuable. You may even ask your child to show you the pages they liked best and to talk about why.



What do you think of the giant?

What is happening in this picture?



Can you find me a robot on this page?

Who do you think is under this flap?



What did you think about that story? Why?

What else would you like to know about things that go?



Why did the boy do that?

How would you feel?

When did he say that?

Asking questions

There will be opportunities to ask questions before, during and after reading. Try to ask a range of different question types to really support your child's developing vocabulary and their understanding:

- Closed questions just require a yes/no response:
Is that interesting?
- Open questions require a fuller response and may begin with question words like *what, why, how, when, which*.

Following a thread

And finally, if you have 'struck gold' with a book, a character, a topic, a series of books, or even a format that your child is clearly loving, then enjoy the repeats, but also follow that thread. Use the excitement to show your child similar books that they might also enjoy. In this way, we engage, nourish, pause, nudge forwards and enjoy the development of reading with young children. Following your instinct is always good.