

Characters, words and sounds discovered through books can be talked about outside of reading time. Books are an important source of new vocabulary .

Reading aloud combines the benefits of talking, listening and storytelling within a single activity and helps to build the foundation for language development.

## Little Fishes Pre-School

Why reading is good for talking .

Reading together gives babies and young children the chance to respond. A gurgle in anticipation of a favourite story ending, or a smile of enjoyment, shows parents and carers that young children like to communicate and do so from a very young age.

The majority of brain development occurs in the first three years of a child's life. Reading to babies and young children, and giving them time to respond, will help make the most of this Opportunity.



**10** Top Tips

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Sharing books with babies and young children is a fun way to share talk. Adults and children will both enjoy the experience, which means there is a strong chance it will become a regular activity .

Babies love the sound of their parents voices and read aloud to them can be calming during times of distress or unease. Coupled with the appearance of their favourite book and / or character, it can be a very soothing experience and help build the bond between carer and child.

Stories provide parents and carers with a structure to help them talk aloud to children and listen to their responses. It helps overcome adult inhibitions and provide topics for discussion .

Talking and listening to young children develops their social and literacy skills and reading aloud is a good way of encouraging two-way communication.

Books introduce children to the exciting world of stories and help them to express their own thoughts and emotions .

Songs and rhymes are especially good for children as the rhythms and repetitive language makes it easier for babies to learn language skills.

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