

Bringing books to life and encouraging a love of reading

Children benefit from adults who enjoy telling stories and can bring them to life.

Adults should be committed to planning great storytelling adventures in new and exciting ways throughout the day - with stories that spark and develop children's imagination and creativity.

Tips and ideas:

- Regularly update your book areas to provide material that meets the children's areas of interests, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, magazines, comics, newspapers, recipe books, books with women as lead characters, books showing people with disabilities as positive role models, dual language books and homemade books
- Stories should match children's current levels of development, interests and length of concentration
- Use story stones, shadow theatres and story boxes, making the children part of the story to encourage them to develop their own narrative
- Create small reading nooks, change décor to match topics, or pop up reading tents in a new spot each day
- Provide a reading library or story sacks with books for parents to borrow, invite them to story sessions and workshops, and ask parents to record stories in their home language
- Provide a range of books that are representative of all your children's families and cultures
- Join your local library and take the children on regular visits (when safe to do so)
- Invite the librarian into your setting when safe to do so or encourage virtual visits, to share stories with the children
- Provide a basket of reading buddies (soft toys, action figures, puppets) to share children's reading time
- Develop staff storytelling skills so all staff are confident storytellers able to use tone, pitch and innovation to create exciting story characters with the ability to build excitement and suspense
- Invite parents to record stories in their first language to share with all children
- Ensure all adults are good role models, demonstrating an enjoyment of reading for pleasure by cherishing stories and story time with children
- Have fun making up stories together and acting out stories.



Developing a love of books early is essential to support lifelong joy with literacy and storytelling.