

# Reading with your child

The Hanen Approach





# Choosing a story

It is important to let your child choose the story they would like to read. You can give some guidance or ask questions at points. However, allowing your child to choose the book ensures it caters to their interests.



Sit, face to face with your child.

It can be very beneficial to read facing your child, rather than beside them on a couch. This will give you the opportunity to read your child's cues and see when they are interested in the book.





Allow your child to hold the  
book and turn the pages



This ensures that your  
child feels actively  
involved when reading the  
story. Do not worry if they  
skip some pages - reading  
is supposed to be fun!

# Let your child 'read'



Your child may want to flip through the book or only look at a few pages. They might want to read the book from cover to cover. It is vital that they are given the chance to look at the book at their own pace and based on their interests. You don't have to finish the book.





# Change up the story



You don't have  
to read every  
word on the  
page.

You can  
simplify the  
story.



You can talk  
through the  
pictures instead  
of reading the  
words.



# Keep things the same

If your child likes to re-read the same story don't discourage this. Repetition and familiarity will help your child remember new words and develop their understanding of a text.



# Wait....

After turning a page or when you have finished reading wait silently. This gives your child a chance to comment on the pictures or ask questions before you do.





# 'Adding Language'



Use a variety of words and highlight important ones.

Don't just name the pictures in a book. Explore describing words, action words, location words, words for emotions and words about time.

Emphasise important words when reading by slowing down, linking the word to pictures and using gestures to show its meaning.

Expand your child's message.

When your child makes a comment about the book you can expand by elaborating this e.g. if a dog is playing fetch in the picture and your child says 'dog'. You may respond by saying 'The dog is playing fetch.'



Build understanding and imagination

Draw connections between the book and your child's life to develop understanding. For example when reading a book about the zoo, you could discuss a time you went to the zoo. Books can offer opportunities to explore imaginary concepts e.g. fairies and castles.



# Types of books for nursery children

- Books with colourful, realistic photographs or pictures
  - Board books
  - Repetitive books
  - Photo albums
  - Homemade books
- Short, simple storybooks
  - Interactive books

