



# Supporting Early Reading Development at Home

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Your child will learn to read in a very simple way.

He or she will learn to:

1. Read letters by their 'sounds'
2. Blend these sounds into words
3. Read the words in a story.

## How will my child learn to read?

01

### Simple Sounds

At first your child will be taught to say and read sounds that are written with one letter (order may vary):  
s a t p i n m d g o c k e u r h b l f j v w  
x y z

### Blending

At this time your child will also be taught the skill of sound blending, so that they can begin to read simple words, for example:  
m-a-t *mat*  
g-o-t *got*  
w-e-n-t *went*

### Complex Sounds

Next, your child will be taught to say, read and blend more complex sounds. Sounds which are written with 2 letters, for example:  
sh ch th qu ng

Your child will be taught to say the sound for the letter and not the letter name, so 'm' as in 'mat', not 'em'; 's' as in 'sun' not 'es'.

## How to listen to your child read 02

- Do not read the book aloud before your child reads it to you.
- When your child reads the story, ask him or her to sound out the words that he or she can't read automatically. Don't allow your child to struggle too much. Praise your child when he or she succeeds.
- Read back each sentence or page to your child to keep the plot moving. (At this stage your child's energy is going into reading the words, not thinking about the story.)
- Do not ask your child to guess the word by using the pictures or other guessing strategies.
- Do it all with patience and love!

## Storytime

03



School



Bedtime



Borrow

Your child will have storytime regularly at school so they develop a love of stories. We hope that you will do the same by reading a bedtime story to your child every night. Local libraries and schools have wonderful books for you to borrow.



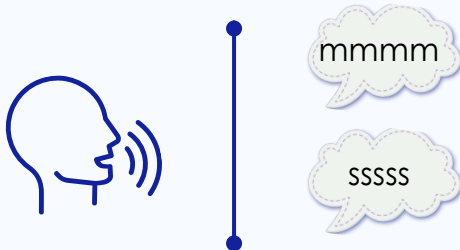
## Supporting Early Reading Development at Home

You can help your child to say and read the simple sounds. Before you go any further, scan the QR code to practise how to say the sounds clearly.

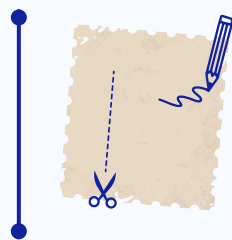
How can I support my child further?

04

Important: We say 'mmmm' not 'muh' and 'lllll' not 'luh' when teaching the sounds. This really helps children when they learn to blend sounds together to read words.



You might have magnetic letters at home or you could make your own cards, using paper. Help your child to practise all the sounds, getting quicker each time.



Once your child can read some sounds confidently, they are ready to start learning to blend to read words.

See the next column for some suggestions, remembering to always say sounds and not letter names.

Activities to try...

05

Using sound cards, make up a word using the sounds your child knows  
e.g. p-a-t

p a t



Point to and say each sound, then read the word. Ask your child to copy you.

a t p

Muddle the cards and ask your child to make the word. Ask them to point to and say each sound then blend.



p a t

m a t

Sound Swap: swap one of the sounds for a new sound to make another word. Point to and say each sound, then blend to say the word.