



Book Talk Supporting Interactive Book Reading at Home



<u>Before</u> Reading

- Prepare your child to listen to the book (e.g. find somewhere to sit or lie with them, explain that we look with our eyes and listen with our ears)
- For young children: Help your child to increase their awareness of books and print (e.g. hold the book the wrong way or turn pages from back to front and encourage your child to tell you the right way).



- Look at and comment on the title of the book, the author's name, the pictures on the front and back covers, the blurb on the back cover etc.
- Point to clues to help your child guess what the story might be about (from the title and pictures etc.).

Ask open-ended questions. This helps your child think about the story.

- o I wonder why...?
- o I wonder if...?
- o What might happen...?



DuringReading

Make comments about the story. This helps your child to link the story to his/her own experiences.

- o I don't think I'd like...
- When I was small I was scared of...
- I love doing...

Encourage your child to comment as well.





Give a simple definition or example, act out the word, use gestures, show relevant pictures in the book and/or use real objects.

Follow-up experiences to activate new words

- Chat about the book and related topics with your child and/or others (e.g. siblings, other parent etc.). Give opportunities for your child to ask and answer questions e.g. if reading a story about animals you could talk about the time your family visited a farm/the zoo etc.
- **Re-read** the same book often *e.g. several times during the week/month*
- Sing songs and rhymes e.g. sing "the bear went over the mountain" after reading Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?
- o **Role play/pretend play.** Act out the story using props. Use small figures to act out parts of the story *e.g. lego figures, animal figures, dolls, teddies etc.*
- Sensory play ideas e.g. water play in the sink/bath/a basin after reading Five Little Ducks.
- o **Arts and crafts.** Items related to themes or specific vocabulary in the story.



