



Booktrust's Top Tips for Bedtime Reading

Sharing a story at bedtime is a chance for you and your child or children to relax and enjoy a special moment together. They will really benefit if you read aloud with them and it will be great fun too!

- Sit close together, somewhere cosy. It doesn't have to be in bed.
- Let your child choose the book so they feel involved.
- You can share stories or non-fiction, and children love poetry too!
- You don't always have to 'read' a book, try talking about the pictures and asking questions.
- Let your child ask questions too – it helps them to understand the story.
- Try to relate a story to real life: 'Do you remember when we saw a dog like that...?'
- Try putting on the different voices – it will really make the story fun to listen to!
- Read children's favourite books over and over again, so they begin to remember.
- You could try telling a story from memory, or even make one up together.
- For younger children, choose books with rhyme and repetition, so they can start joining in.
- As your child gets older share longer books with chapters and cliffhangers!
- If a child keeps asking you to read the same book, **celebrate!** Your child loves books and is well on the way to becoming a reader.

Bookstart provides free books for babies and children under 4. Ask your health visitor or your local library for more information.

For more tips and advice on great rhymes and books to share with your child visit our websites at www.bedtimereading.org.uk and www.bookstart.co.uk