

## **A love of books is a gift for life.**

- Get ready! Choose a cosy, quiet place and a book, rhyme or song that you and the baby will enjoy. Don't worry if you feel a little shy at first. The more you practise the better you will become.
- Babies love the sound of your voice so turn off the TV or Radio so they can hear you.
- Make a routine and try to share a book every day. But, if your baby is bored or fretful, try again when they are in the mood,
- Point to the pictures and talk about things in them that your baby knows. Choose familiar things, for example (a dog or a ball), this will help build the baby's understanding of words.
- Your baby will soon learn about books – start at the front and turn the pages to keep the story going. They will soon be turning pages and trying to talk.
- The exact words of the story don't matter, even if you feel that you're not a good reader, it's your voice and closeness that count so don't worry!
- Try out funny voices and sounds, play and have fun! Babies love to be tickled and bounced along to a rhyme or story .
- Babies love to hear the same story over and over again. It helps them to remember what comes next.
- Remember, books are not just for bedtime so take a book with you when you go shopping or in the car.