Why Read?

Your child is starting to read for themselves but they still need your support. By encouraging your child to read to you, being an enthusiastic listener and talking about new words and their meanings, you'll help them to develop their reading skills.

Reading tips

- Use books in a variety of situations and match them to what your child is doing. You could take a book about insects to read when you're at the park.
- Make up voices for the different characters in a story.
- Point to words and grammar as you read. By pointing out the speech marks, your child will understand why you use a different voice when they appear. Just don't do it all the time and spoil the flow of the story.
- Speak to your child's teacher about how they sound out words and use phonics to encourage children to read simple words. And then follow their advice when you're reading with your child.
- Read poetry and stories that rhyme and pause so your child can say the rhyming words.
- Let your child listen to stories on CD. You can borrow audio books from your local library.
- Visit your local library and help your child to find out information about something they're interested in such as animals. It's free and easy to join and children can have their own library card. Visit **www.surreycc.gov.uk/libraries** for more information or pop into your local library.
- Point out words and phrases on shops and signs when you are out and about. Children can recognise familiar words really quickly.
- Let your child see you reading.

4 to 5 years

More tips...

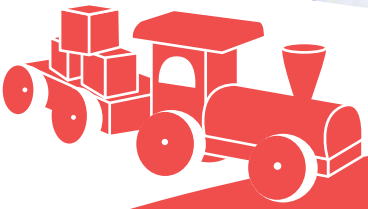
- Make up a story together while you're in the car or on a bus. Take it in turns to add to the story and try making it funny or spooky.
- It's great to introduce new stories and your child may have school reading books but make sure you still read your old favourites together. Your child will be able to read them confidently to you now.
- Create a book with your child by folding pieces of paper in half and encouraging them to write letters or words on each page and add their own pictures.

"What I like"

- To read books and join in when you read to me.
- To hear about myself and my family in a story, especially if it's funny.
- To catch you out when you make a mistake in a story I know well.

"What I can do"

- Read words and use my knowledge of phonics to sound out words I don't know.
- Understand stories and make up my own, based on stories I know.
- Tell you what might happen next in a story.
- Answer questions like "what would you do?".



This leaflet is from a series of five, each leaflet covers a different age range from birth to five years old. Children develop at their own rates and in their own ways. The ages are suggestions of typical ranges of development.

If you have any concerns about your child's development, speak to your GP, health visitor or someone at your local Sure Start Children's Centre.

You can find all the leaflets and more advice about reading with your child on the Surrey Family Information Service webpages

www.surreycc.gov.uk/earlylearning

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