

# Enjoying Fiction with Your Child

Here are some helpful hints to get the best out of sharing stories with your child:

1. Read the title and discuss what the book may be about.
2. Read the blurb on the back of the book if there is any so your child has some idea of the story. This will also give your child a clue as to the vocabulary they are likely to meet in the book.
3. Have a flick through and look at the pictures, again to get an idea of the story and the type of words they may meet.
4. If you have been asked to read to your child, let them sit back and enjoy it.
5. Later, as your child begins to learn words and sounds you may be asked to share the book; sometimes you may be reading and sometimes your child will, with you helping out with unknown words and letting them read the ones they know.
6. As they become more competent readers, they will be asked to read independently so that you can sit back and enjoy!
7. Always try to encourage them to read with expression. This may be easier at the second reading.
8. As you enjoy the book ask them what they think might happen or why something happened or why a character is acting as they are or how a character is feeling. When you have finished again share your opinions about the story, the characters and the ending.
9. Children love to read the same book over and over again not only for enjoyment but it also helps them to practise their reading skills.

Last but not least, enjoy yourselves!

# Enjoying Non-fiction with Your Child

Here are some helpful hints to get the best out of sharing information books with your child:

1. Non-fiction forms a major part of your child's literacy, especially their writing, and so it is vital that they are familiar with how it differs from fiction and how to use the books efficiently to extract information.
2. Information books do not necessarily have to be read from the beginning so browsing through is a good way to start.
3. Use the contents page and get your child to decide which section they might like to look at first.
4. Read small sections such as labelled diagrams, captions next to pictures or pages about one particular topic.
5. Use the index to find more specific information. Help your child to understand that it is in alphabetical order and how you can find things quickly without looking down the whole list, for example if a word begins with w, it is more likely to be at the end of the index. This will help them when using a dictionary.
6. Use the glossary so your child learns the meanings of new words that they can then use in their writing.
7. If they are particularly interested in a certain topic, it is a good idea to collect a few books on the same topic.
8. While out and about, let your child collect information leaflets, booklets, posters and so on, as this will give them a good foundation for their own non-fiction writing.

*As always, enjoy yourself!*

## Enjoying Poetry with Your Child

Here are some helpful hints to get the best out of sharing poetry with your child:

1. Poetry is also a major part of your child's literacy, in terms of both reading and writing, and it can be great fun - particularly nonsense and humorous rhymes.
2. Read the title and discuss what it may be about.
3. Look at the shape of the poem.
4. Read it through using lots of expression. Get your child to read with you or, if they can, read it themselves.
5. Look closely at the rhyme if there is one. Which lines rhyme? What is the pattern of the rhyme? It has been found that rhyme is of particular importance in learning to read and also helps with spelling patterns.
6. Listen to the rhythm. Can you get the rhythm right when you read it? Can you clap it?
7. Discuss the poem and how it makes you feel. Is it sad, did you like or dislike it and why?
8. Read your favourites a few times and, if your child can learn it by heart, maybe they could perform it for other members of the family!

Have fun!