



# THE MAGIC OF STORIES

## DID YOU KNOW THAT **BEING READ TO** IS THE MOST POWERFUL PREDICTOR OF YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE READING COMPREHENSION?

By reading aloud a story to your child every day, you are fusing the act of reading with comfort and love; when YOU love a book, your child will want to hear it again and again. **Children are wired to thrive on repetition**, so when you read a book over and over again, remember you are hardwiring their brains for success. The exponential effect of reading to children is HUGE; read to your child and this is what you give them free:

- YOUR attention
- The ability to pay attention, to focus on something shared
- Time to chat
- A breadth of vocabulary and a deeper understanding of language
- Knowledge of new places and people: real and imagined
- Knowledge of how stories work
- The ability to think ahead, hypothesize and to infer what characters are thinking
- Opportunity to discuss moral issues; right from wrong
- Phonological sensitivity to alliteration (big, bad Barry), rhyme and rhythm

## HOW TO READ ALOUD TO YOUR CHILD FOR MAXIMUM IMPACT:

1. Make reading to your child feel like a treat. **Introduce each new book with excitement.**
2. Make it a special quiet time away from the hustle and bustle of the rest of the day, snuggle up close to your child.
3. **Affect curiosity** in what you're going to read before you start reading the book.  
*"Who's Next?" This should be funny – It's about a little boy queuing for the loo.*
4. **Read the whole story the first time through without stopping too much.** If you think your child might not understand something, say something like: *Oh, I think what's happening here is that...*
5. Chat about the story.  
*I wonder why he did that...?*  
*Oh no, I hope she's not going to...*  
*I wouldn't have done that, would you? I bet she's feeling desperate now...*
6. **Know not to ask questions to test your child on what they remember.**
7. **Link stories to your own and your child's experiences** and link these experiences to other stories...  
*This reminds me when we queued for the loo when we went camping. Do you remember?*
8. Read your **child's favourite stories over and over again.**
9. Get your child to join in with the bits they know. Build suspense each time, **hesitating so your child can jump in before you say the word.**
10. Read with enthusiasm. Don't be embarrassed to try out different voices.
11. Keep reading to your child, even when they can read for themselves!