

Bookstart Star

Accessible Booklist

Welcome to Bookstart Star

All children love it when you spend time with them, talk to them and give them lots of eye contact and smiles. However, it can feel strange talking to your child, especially when they are young and are possibly just learning to talk.

That's why books are magical. You can read with your child from birth, it helps build your bond. When you sit cuddled up together looking at the pictures, you can talk about the colours on the page and make funny voices together.

This will help your child make sense of the world around them and to learn new words.

For more fun, tips and great books to share go to **booktrust.org.uk/families**



Reading together



If you read together every day, it will help give your child a lifelong love of books and reading.

- Time spent sharing books with your child helps to create a special bond between you.
- You can enjoy books together anywhere and anytime.
- Sharing a bedtime story is a great way to end the day.

Getting started



As you share the book together you can talk about what you can see on the pages.

- Encourage your child to join in with the story. Ask them questions like 'What do you think will happen next?' and 'What can you see on this page?'
- Give your child plenty of time to answer your questions. It takes them longer to work things out, so try not to rush them.
- Make sure your child has books to enjoy, alongside their toys and games. Then they can look at a book whenever they feel like it.



The book in your Bookstart pack

There's no right or wrong way to look at a book together, but these tips can help you get started. Read your book slowly so your child can hear the words clearly. This will help your child learn new words, express themselves, and understand more about the world around them.

When your child becomes more confident you can add in different voices and noises and speed up the pace when the story gets exciting. The most important thing is to have fun together!

Big Outdoors for Little Explorers: Jungle

by Anne-Katherin Behl
Published by Nosy Crow

- Have fun looking through the book together and discovering the different jungle animals.
- Give your child plenty of time to explore the book, feel the pages and play with the sliders and pull tab.
- Look at what is happening on the pages and ask your child what different things they can spot; that could include the animals being described as well as the other creatures and plants in the background.



Using your new finger puppet

There are lots of great ways to have fun with finger puppets. Your child will love it if you use them to bring their favourite book to life or to tell your own stories.

There are no right or wrong ways to enjoy playing with puppets, but here are a few ideas to start you off!

Getting to know your puppet:

- It is a good idea to introduce your puppet slowly. Make the puppet look away or downwards until your child is happy to play.
- Gently move your puppet to look at your child when they speak to it.
- This shows them that the puppet is responding to them.



Puppet play:

- Puppets can help children to open up and join in. Let your child get to know the puppet by making it dance.
- You could make your puppet sing a song! Or you could tickle your child with the puppet and watch them smile and giggle.

Reading along:

- Help your child to follow where you are in a book by using your puppet to read along with you. Point the puppet at the word you are reading and use it to turn the page.
- Reading the story in a made-up puppet voice will add to the fun! It doesn't matter what it sounds like as long as it is a bit different from your own.



Pretend play:



- Try giving your puppet its own personality and asking what it thinks about everyday things. This will help your child to learn about other people's feelings and ideas.
- If your child is able to, they can wear the puppet and use it to turn the pages. Give them lots of time to join in and use their imagination!

Acting out the story:

- Using the puppet to act out a story can help your child to understand what's going on and learn how to pretend play. Pick a character from your book and use the puppet to show what they are doing.
- The puppet can talk to your child about its friends in the book and how each character is different. The more you make the puppet behave, move or speak like the character in a story, the more your child will enjoy it!



Making up your own story:

- You don't have to read stories from a book. You can make up your own by asking simple story questions like:
 - Who shall be in our story?
 - Where are they?
 - What happens in our story?
- This will help your child join in with the story and develop their speaking and listening skills.



Accessible booklist

This list offers a number of wonderful books for young children. From chunky board books to 'touch and feel' fun, to rhyming stories and beautiful picture books, there is something for everyone.

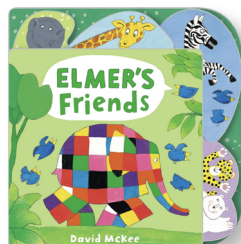
Elmer's Friends

by David McKee

Andersen Press

ISBN: 9781783446070

A colourful board book in which the ever-popular Elmer the Elephant praises each of his friends for their different strengths. An ideal starting point for talking about individuality.



Let's Go Home, Baby Tiger

by Caroline Buzio

Nosy Crow

ISBN: 9781839947261

Have fun moving the counter around each page and looking for the different animals and plants to spot in the illustrations, supporting observation skills and practising fine motor skills. You could also talk about the different animals found in the book and what makes them special.



The Very Hungry Caterpillar's Hide & Seek

by Eric Carle

Penguin Random House Children's UK

ISBN: 9780241425657

A playful and brightly coloured book that encourages interactive play, with fun, rhyming text. Follow the finger-trail on each page and lift the flaps to see who is hiding underneath. Can you spot the hungry caterpillar? What else can you see and feel on each page?



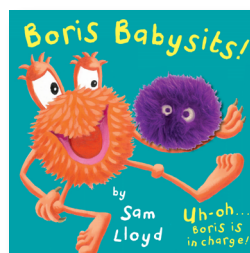
Boris Babysits

by Sam Lloyd

Templar Publishing

ISBN: 9781783704156

Boris, a friendly orange monster, is babysitting their younger sibling, and needs your help! With an actual fluffy monster baby to move around the pages, readers can interact with the story and help Boris give the baby a bath and tuck her into bed.



You Can!

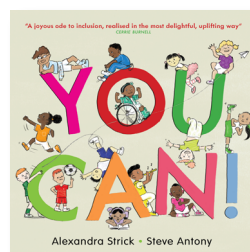
by Alexandra Strick,

illustrated by Steve Antony

Otter-Barry Books

ISBN: 9781915659286

Based on real children's own voices, this nonfiction picture book illustrates a range of children as they move through life in their own unique ways, and grow into active adults. An inclusive and empowering narrative that shows the amazing things children of all different abilities can do.



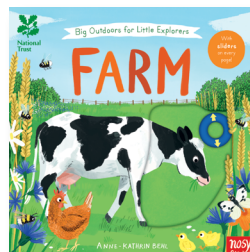
Big Outdoors for Little Explorers: Farm

by Anne-Kathrin Behl

Nosy Crow

ISBN: 9781839947018

Explore the farm with this nonfiction board book. Move the little sliding mechanisms on every page to change the picture and practise fine motor skills, while simple animal facts and little details to spot on every page offer lots of opportunity for discussion.



Off to the Park

by Stephen Cheetham

Child's Play International

ISBN: 9781846435027

Take a fun-filled trip through the park with this sensory-packed story. There are lots of different textures and shapes to touch and even a 'scratch and sniff' page. Simple rhyming text provides repetition and is lovely for reading together.



Hello, Frog

by Isabel Otter,

illustrated by Sophie Ledesma

Little Tiger Press

ISBN: 9781838913175

Join Frog on a jungle journey and say hello to lots of friendly creatures along the way in this bright and interactive board book full of 'touch and feel' elements, peek-through holes and flaps to lift up and look under.



This is Us: The Story of a Family

by Emily Hamilton

Bloomsbury

ISBN: 9781526648990

This heartfelt picture book takes readers on a journey through the ups and downs of a family's everyday life. One of the children has a genetic condition called Prader-Willi syndrome, so they navigate life a little differently to others. But they approach this together as a family, and experience lots of love and joy along the way.



Amazing

by Steve Antony

Hachette Children's Group

ISBN: 9781444944716

A delightful story of a young boy and his pet dragon Zibbo, and all the fun things they do together, from dancing to playing hide-and-seek with friends. A sweet and funny tale of friendship and being yourself.



We hope you have fun reading these books together. There are many others to discover with your child at: **booktrust.org.uk/bookfinder** and at your local library.

BookTrust is the UK's largest children's reading charity. We get millions of children reading each year. Children who choose to read and who read regularly experience better mental wellbeing. They form stronger bonds and relationships. They do better at school and are more creative. This is why we support families to start sharing stories and books together from the earliest possible age.

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