

Role Play Reading

At this developmental stage children show reading-like behaviours when interacting with texts such as picture books, traditional tales and simple informational texts. They rely heavily on topic knowledge, pictures and memorisation when reading texts previously heard.

Behaviours you may see are...

- holding the book right way up
- reading their own writing and unfamiliar texts differently each time
- choosing texts mainly for enjoyment
- recognising significant environmental print, e.g. *signs, logos, labels*
- making links to own experience when listening to or reading texts, e.g. *points to illustrations saying "I had a party."*
- talking about familiar characters or people from texts
- recognising their own name or part of it in print
- knowing repetitive patterns in very familiar stories, e.g. *Run, run as fast as you can ...*
- using some book language in retellings and play, e.g. *Once upon a time ...*
- beginning to understand directionality of print, e.g. *front to back when turning pages*
- beginning to recognise some letters by name or sound, e.g. *Sam says "That's my name", pointing to 's' in a 'Stop' sign*
- reading from memory

What parents can do at home to support their child:

- Celebrate reading success. Yes, this includes reading from memory.
- Read to your child every day. Reading aloud helps children expand their vocabulary, appreciate the value of books and other texts, understand new ideas and concepts, and learn about the world around them.
- It is important that words and sounds are not isolated from the text. If they are explored they should be explored within the context of the text.
- Expose your child to a wide variety of texts, e.g. *books, magazines, documentaries, brochures, newspaper and comics.*
- Books can be read many times so children become familiar with them. Familiarity helps build self-confidence. **In fact, it is expected that children re-read familiar text.**
- Encourage and praise your child's attempts to read.
- Ensure your child sees other members of the family reading and talking about their reading. This helps them see reading as something of great value to you.
- Encourage your child to talk about books and their reading with other family members, and promote the love of reading.
- Have children's books as a high priority in your home. Ask for books to be given to your child as presents, give them to others as gifts. Have a library membership.