

Sligo Central
Library: 0719111675
sligolibrary@sligococo.ie

Tubbercurry Community
Library: 0719111721
tubberlibrary@sligococo.ie

Ballymote Community
Library: 0719111669
ballymotebranchlibrary@
sligococo.ie

Enniscrone Branch Library:
0719111653
enniscronebranchlibrary@
sligococo.ie



Sligo County Libraries

Reading with your child

0 - 4 YEARS



Welcome!

Reading books with your child is a surprisingly simple habit to form with so many benefits. Book time is fun, a great way to bond and can be a high point of your day.

In this booklet we tell you about the benefits for you and your child. We will look at some of the ways to make it easy, enjoyable and help your child's development. Parents often ask us where to start with picking books, so we have a list with pictures of tried and tested favourites (we particularly enjoy the funny ones!). We have also included a list of ways the librarians can help you and what resources we have to offer for free.

We hope you will be inspired to read more and come see us soon.

All the staff at Sligo County Libraries

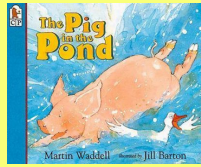


How the library can help

- Libraries are the perfect place to find and try different kinds of books to enjoy together for free!
- Free membership and no fines for bringing the books back late. No fine for replacement children's cards.
- Friendly, knowledgeable, experienced staff to help you select books based on your children's interests and reading stage. Libraries also have books that give help and advice on weaning, dealing with tantrums, sleeping and other issues.
- Regular, free storytimes and activities. These are a great way to meet other parents and share stories, songs and crafts together.
- Online services including ebooks and emagazines for children and adults, including magazines on parenting tips.
- Libraries are breast-feeding and child-friendly places even for very small children, and we don't say 'shhh!' any more!



Recommended Books

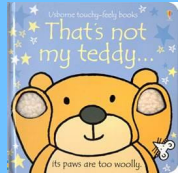
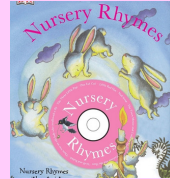


The Pig in the Pond | Martin Waddell

Pigs don't swim ... or so it's said. A classic, much-loved picture book following the exploits of a hot & bothered pig.

Nursery Rhymes | Debi Gliori

Read & sing along with your little one as you introduce them to well-known nursery rhymes including Humpty Dumpty, Incy Wincy Spider, Little Bo-Peep, and many more.

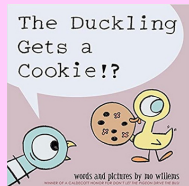
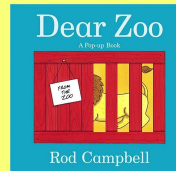


That's not my teddy | Fiona Watt & Rachel Wells

A delightful touchy-feely book with simple, repetitive text & bold illustrations suitable for babies and toddlers.

Dear Zoo | Rod Campbell

Young children will love lifting the flaps to discover the animals the zoo has sent – a monkey, a lion & even an elephant! But will they ever manage to send the perfect pet?



The Duckling Gets a Cookie? | Mo Willems

The Pigeon is outraged! Incensed! How could this have happened? HOW is it possible that this duckling gets a cookie?! Well, because she asked. Nicely.

There's a Monster in Your Book | Tom Fletcher

A monster has invaded the pages of this super-fun bedtime picture book! Follow the interactive instructions to help free the pesky monster by tilting, spinning & shaking the book.



Why reading?

Even ten minutes spent reading with your child each day can:

- Help develop their social, emotional and communication skills
- Help them grow into a happy and confident learner
- Make stronger bonds with you through cuddling up together, chatting, laughing and getting to know each other.

Holding your baby with a book on your lap and reading to them is soothing and reminds them of listening to your voice before they were born.

Reading to babies can help develop their language, learning and social abilities.

Research shows the a new habit can be formed in just three weeks. Setting a timer and having a set time to read will make it a regular rhythm.



Reading tips

- Babies can hear your voice from 18 weeks so it's never too soon to read something to them. They take comfort from your voice.
- Find a comfortable place to read together, away from screens and noise and sit together. Encourage them to hold the book and turn the pages with you or for you as they are able.
- Everyone in the family can be involved in storytime, grandparents and siblings can all enjoy joining in too.



- Nursery Rhymes: Repetition is important for babies learning. Skipping the word at the end of the rhyme when they are a little older helps develop language skills and keeps it engaging.
- Hand-eye co-ordination: colouring, drawing, tracing even from the earliest age lays the foundations for the ability to write and type.
- Matching: play games that allow them to pair items. Jigsaws, sock-pairing, shape sorters and cards are all examples.
- By doing these things you help your pre-reader to understand that words carry meaning, that writing goes from left to right, top to bottom and you help them to begin to recognise the alphabet
- You are also helping them to match voice to print, matching the sounds made with the words by tracking the words with their finger.



- Books with repetition and simple, predictable stories are great for starting out as they hold your child's attention. When they are old enough you can ask them to choose their own book (this is really easy at the library as they can choose lots for free).
- Don't worry if they become distracted, eat the book or want to wander off, all very normal! Gentleness and a sense of fun are key.
- As they become a little older take care to match the reading material with the ability of your child, if it is too hard they may become discouraged. Librarians are always happy to give help to find the right books.
- Talk about what you are reading, ask questions, ask your child to point to or name items. Ask what is your favourite colour/character etc.? Ask them to guess the story based on the pictures.
- Choose books on topics that your child knows a little about so they can use that knowledge when you ask them questions.
- Introduce letter sounds and shapes slowly, start with their own initials, sound out words and point to each one as you read it.

