

Today, less than 20 per cent of children are reading stories daily. As parents we are constantly struggling with balancing entertaining our little ones and restricting their use of technology. Even with the best intentions, the easiness of technology and screen time, can make this our go to tool. This juggling act and our fast-paced lives has led to a decline in the time children get to enjoy stories and books.

“A two-year-old’s language development strongly predicts their reading skills on entry to school.*”

We all know, and research has told us, that exposure to reading and books from an early age has a significant impact in a child’s long-term success. At Kindred Nurseries, we want to help families to rekindle that love and enjoyment of stories and create that rich learning experience that helps children to hear, see and feel the pictures and words in a book.

How we do it at nursery

Kindred are passionate that storytelling isn’t lost and children are given enjoyable and memorable experiences that fosters a lifelong love of learning with books.

“Reading with parents, carers, family and friends at an early age also offers a vital foundation for later learning.*”

We read and tell stories to our youngest children to our pre-schoolers every day at nursery. Whether it be at circle time or before lunch and naps.

Even though young babies can’t speak or read just yet, they love to look at pictures, listen to the storyteller’s voice and enjoy the closeness of reading a book together. Storytelling at home and in nursery, can help babies develop speech and language by exposing them to new words. An article from the National Literacy Trust* states that children’s vocabulary will be expanded by reading and telling stories. When children see books as exciting and interesting, they will choose to ‘read’ for themselves and share books with others.



Reading together creates valuable learning opportunities including:

- Sharing and turn taking
- Listening
- Knowledge of themselves, others and the world around them
- How to deal with, label and manage emotions and everyday experiences
- Imagination
- How to think critically and solve problems
- How to listen and decode images at the very same time
- Look, think and talk
- Be a good conversationalist
- Development of emerging reading skills

Ideas to create a love of stories

1.

Make the time special, find a quiet place for you both, away from noise, the television or loud conversations. Try not to have interruptions as children may lose the plot of the story and in turn lose interest.

Get comfortable, ensure everyone can see the book and you are sitting closely to each other.

2.

3.

Everyone plays a part. Encourage your child to join in and predict what might happen next.

Let your child suggest missing words.

4.

5.

Tell a story from your own experience or about your child. "Shall I tell you about the first time I met you? Shall I tell you about when I was little? Shall I tell you about my football trophy?"

Use silly voices and expression. Don't be embarrassed, they will love it. Children love hearing different voices of characters and tone of voice. They are our biggest fans and will think you are amazing and great at telling stories.

6.

7.

Encourage children to retell the story in their own words.

Use the pictures for children to talk about what is happening or might happen in the story.

8.

9.

Variety is key to enjoyment. Try all kinds of stories from picture books, non-fiction books, rhymes, poems, lift the flap and books with other languages.

Read favourite stories time and time again. Frequently told stories can help children become familiar with vocabulary and content, they will also want to join in with the story.

10.

We'd love to hear what you do at home. What are your favourite books?
What is going to be the bedtime story tonight?

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