

# RAISING A LITTLE READER



## Hello, and Welcome!

I'm so pleased that you are here sharing my love of raising little readers. I'd love to help you get the most out of reading with your little one and give you an insight into the incredible advantage you are giving your child by simply enjoying books together.

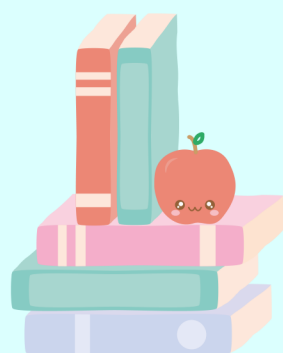
## When should I start reading to my baby?

It is never too early! In fact, your baby will become familiar with your voice whilst they are still in your womb so the sound and rhythm of your voice will be reassuring, as well as making them feel safe and secure. Listening to your voice will be one of their favourite things whilst cuddled up to you and it is a lovely time to connect whilst supporting their language development.



## Why should I read to my baby?

Reading to your baby is one of the best things you can do with them with studies repeatedly demonstrating that those that are read to in the early years have higher literacy levels later in life. Reading together will nurture your relationship, it will support their language development and expand their vocabulary. It will teach them the art of conversation, introduce them to new concepts and expand their understanding of the world around them.



## How often should I read to my baby?

Try to read together every day. Little and often is best for short attention spans. Just 20 minutes a day exposes your little one to over 1.8 million extra words per year. You can just imagine the impact this has on their vocabulary once they start talking. Babies love routine so try and carve out a specific time when you read together every day.



## Where should I read to my baby?

Anywhere and everywhere! In the bath, in bed and at mealtimes are all great opportunities and I always loved to have a book to hand in the change bag for on the go entertainment too. Having your baby read with friends and relatives is also a great opportunity for your baby to see other people enjoying books and experience different ways of reading. It is a lovely bonding experience for them with your baby too.



## How do I read to my baby?

Keep it fun - imitate animals, use different voices for characters and ask lots of questions such as 'do you think the cat likes drinking milk?' and then answer the question for your baby. This will teach them the art of conversation and support language development. Try reading to your baby whilst facing them on occasions to mix things up and allow them to see the expressions on your face whilst you read.



## Where should I keep books?

I recommend keeping books in every room of the house so that they are always accessible and become part of everyday life. Baskets are great because they are easy to move around, and they make rotating books easy based on seasons and interests. Books should absolutely be present in your little ones play environment so that they associate books with being fun and also placed within easy reach.

## Ready to turn your little one into a bookworm?

I absolutely love reading to my children, it is their love of books that inspired me to get more families reading together. As I uncovered how fundamental reading is to young children and the phenomenal benefits it brings, ZaZa's Storybox was born. I'd love to help you build the perfect first little library with our range of Storyboxes. Our Storyboxes are designed with you and your little one in mind. We take the hard work out of choosing the most appropriate books, we provide you with regular reading tips and help get your little ones engaged with exciting monthly deliveries.

And yes, I get it, there will undoubtedly be times when as a parent you have had an exhausting day and you are tempted to skip the bedtime story or skim through the last few pages. Parenting can be hard and it doesn't come with a manual but hopefully now you see the value in reading to your little one, it will give you that last little bit of motivation to finish that book before kissing them goodnight. Just 10 minutes a day reading together helps them develop social and emotional skills and become confident, happy learners.

