



A child who is read to will...

Parent's guide:
The importance of reading to a child

- 1. gain confidence and learn to be a fair friend**
According to research, children who are regularly read to are more socially conscious and empathetic, which makes it easier for them to be part of a group and to play with other kids.
- 2. gain a wider vocabulary for their experiences**
Studies show that by the age of three, children in families that read have heard 20 million more words than children in families that don't read. A larger vocabulary makes it easier for a child to express themselves and give their opinions.
- 3. be more talkative at home**
Families who read many books converse more together. Reading aloud to your child strengthens the family relationships. Through stories, you can discuss daily events and help the child to deal with life's bigger twists and turns.
- 4. be more successful at school**
A child, who has become familiar with stories and rhymes already before starting school, thrives and achieves more in school than a child, who is not read to.
- 5. get a better start at life**
The reading environment at home has long-term effects to the child's life. Active, curious and goal-oriented adults have been read to more than usual during their childhood. They continue to read more books as adults.



Every child has the right to read books in their daily life's important languages.

Multilingual literacy is a gift

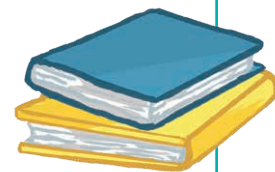
Did you know?

- **One's native language is the basis for everything else.**
- **When a child knows their native language well, it helps them to learn other languages.**
- **Literacy in one's native language translates into literacy in other languages as well.**

The child benefits from being read aloud to in all of their everyday languages. Home and early childhood education take care of the child's multilingual literacy together. A parent can ask the professionals for advice to support the child's reading at home, in both home languages and the language they are learning.



A book is suitable for all ages



Newborns are vigilant listeners

Familiar voices of family members with their altering rhythms and tempos feed a child's sense of language. A rich native tongue is the best possible gift for an infant.

6-month-olds first get interested in a book as a toy

A child smells, tastes and plays with a book. Simple characters and bright colors of a board book are fascinating.

1-year-olds love daily story times

Rhythmic rhymes and poems support a child's speech development. A brief story time or a lullaby calms a child before bedtime.

2-3-year-olds catch new words

Story times become interactive when the adult asks a child what is happening in the pictures of the book. Once a child's ability to focus has improved it's time to move from board books to picture books.

4-5-year-olds start learning the ABCs of life from stories

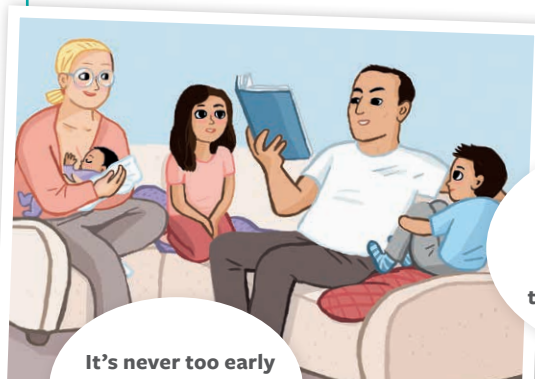
Stories allow a child to safely feel fear and to empathize with various emotions. Rhymes and poems encourage a child to play with language on their own.

6-year-olds already fly on the wings of imagination

A child now has the patience to listen to a longer story. Discussions on what has been read are gratifying for the adult as well. Stories told from a parent's own childhood can create a special story time for both parent and child.

7-year-olds are taking charge of books and letters

A child becomes interested in letters and already wants to read by themselves. Learning to read is a milestone worthy of celebration. Story times between the adult and a child still remain important to the child for a long time.



Discuss: What is happening in the pictures and the story? What does the child think about the book?

It's never too early to start reading for your baby!



You can read for your child anytime and anywhere!



Regular visits to the library with your child foster their love of reading!



A bedtime story can be a good way to help a child wind down before falling asleep.