

# TEN TIPS

## for sharing stories with children & young people of all ages



Sharing stories is a fantastically fun way to celebrate the joy of books and reading with children of all ages, and spark their imagination. Parents, carers, siblings and friends spending just 10 minutes a day reading with children can help to create readers for life.



### 1 BE PREPARED

Sharing a story should be FUN for everyone involved – even the grown-ups! Try to read through the story in advance, to avoid any surprises that might trip you up.

### 2 GET COMFY

Is everyone comfortable? Can you be heard? Is there enough light? If your children are easily distracted, they can draw or play quietly while you read; they'll still reap the benefits of your storytelling.

### 3 HOLDING THE BOOK

You should be able to read the text and your children should be able to see both the pictures and you, too. If you hold it wide open and to the side or put it between laps, you have a free hand to point out pictures or make grand gestures.

### 4 GET INTO CHARACTER

Don't be embarrassed to use voices and songs, as they are a great way to bring stories to life. Go high or low or change the speed from fast to slow to show the difference between characters.

### 5 MIX IT UP

Changing tempo grabs attention, builds suspense or adds humour. Try slowing down or speeding up for different scenes.

### 6 VARY THE TONE

Contrasting your tone is good for sharing both voices and narration. Try switching from monotone to musical, and whispering can also be great fun as it feels like a secret.

### 7 ADD MOVEMENT/PROPS

Make your movements as big or small as you like and invite children to join in. Arms and legs can become a whole host of fantastic props!

### 8 MAKE IT INTERACTIVE

Involve your listeners. Ask them to repeat sentences, add sound effects, count and name what they see or guess what's coming next.

### 9 DISCUSS AS YOU READ

Try to relate the book to other things happening in the world. By setting an example, your listeners will become active, engaged readers who make their own connections.

### 10 TAKE IT TO A NEW LEVEL

Challenge children with stories above their reading level. When you get to something difficult or new, stop and repeat it slowly. Tell them what it means and give other words that mean the same thing, then use it again in another context.