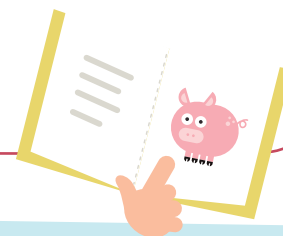


# The **Benefits** of **reading** to your **child**



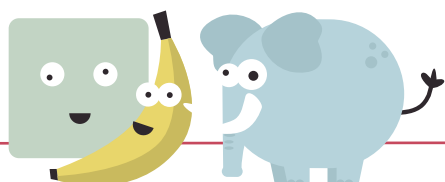
Reading together provides a **chance to interact and bond with your child.**

**When you point to and describe illustrations in the books** you read together, you help develop your baby's language skills.



Babies hear a variety of words when you read to them. **This helps them develop their vocabulary**, especially when you read the same books over and over.

As your child gets older, **they will learn how a book works**: which way to hold it and which way to turn the pages.



Books help your child **learn about different topics** (animals, shapes, food, etc.).



**Books help develop your child's imagination** by introducing them to a whole world of new and exciting things, some real and some made up.

Reading fosters an interest in writing. Without even realizing it, **your child learns that written words can be read.** As they get older, they'll learn that words are made up of the letters of the alphabet.

When you talk about the problems or emotions a character is experiencing and wonder aloud about solutions, **you help your child develop reasoning and language comprehension skills.**

When you read stories to your child, **they gain a better understanding of the concepts of space and time** (day, night, yesterday, tomorrow, here, there, etc.).

Children who are introduced to reading at an early age **are likely to develop an interest in books,** which will help them succeed once they're in school.

**When you read your child stories, you help them tame their fears.**

A wolf or a spider is much less scary when it's in a book! Your comforting presence during storytime will also make it easier for them to express their feelings.

