

Oxford Craniofacial Unit

READING TO TODDLERS

Information for parents and carers

Reading books to your child will help them to develop language and listening skills, as well as stimulating their imagination and knowledge of the world.

Your child is never too young to start looking at books and listening to you read. Encouraging a love of books will help to prepare your child for reading later on.

Making reading fun for your child

- Encourage your child to play with books. Touch and feel books, cloth books and cardboard books are perfect for young curious children.
- Choose books with topics that are motivating for your child.
- Books for toddlers should have simple rhymes and predictable text. Toddlers enjoy stories and pictures about babies and involving familiar actions, like eating, sleeping and saying hello and goodbye.
- 'Lift the flap' and 'touch and feel' books will further involve your child in the story.
- Point to pictures and name objects in books.
- Stimulate your child's interest in books and stories by varying the tone of your voice, making silly noises or making funny faces while you are reading together.
- Sing the nursery rhymes in books.
- Substitute your child's name for the name of a child in the book, to increase their interest.
- First books should have only a few words, simple, bright pictures and a familiar theme.

Remember:

- Toddlers can only sit still for about 2 to 4 minutes, so your reading time together will be quite short to begin with.
- Choose appropriate books for your child. They will lose interest quickly if the story is too complex.
- Reading is not just for bedtime. You can read sitting on the floor, in the bath with a waterproof book, or on a swing.

If you have a specific requirement, need an interpreter, a document in Easy Read, another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01865 221 473** or email **PALS@ouh.nhs.uk**

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