

# Vorlesen und Erzählen

für Kinder ab

3

Reading and Storytelling for  
Children from the age of 3



English | English



GEFÖRDERT VOM



Bundesministerium  
für Bildung  
und Forschung

Stiftung Lesen

# Dear Parents,

Do you still remember?

For the U6 and U7 checkup examination, your pediatrician provided you with Lesestart sets.

Your doctor explained to you how to promote your child's development by regular reading and storytelling.

At your library, you have now received the Lesestart set for children from the age of three.

There, you will find many more picture books and other media to borrow: for instance DVDs, games and audio books.

In the brochure "Reading and Storytelling for Children from the age of 3", you will again find many practical reading tips.

And with the new picture book, you can start reading to your child right away. Your child will surely enjoy the experience a lot.

We wish you lots of fun in reading and storytelling together.



Your Federal Ministry of  
Education and Research

Your German  
Reading Foundation

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# How can I support my child's speech development?

Your child now knows many words. In the first years of his or her life, he or she has learned that words in a certain order will form a sentence.

He or she uses more and more words to describe what is being done and begins asking questions.



Your child understands why something is happening, what happens first and what happens later. With a growing vocabulary, your child will be better able to communicate his or her needs.

It is important that you talk to your child a lot. Ask questions. This is how a conversation will develop between you and your child.

He or she will feel comfortable in the process and notice that you are setting aside time.



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**Remember: Each child develops differently and learns at a different pace!**

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## Tip 1: Come on, let's talk!

Give it a try right away with the Lesestart book:

While reading, ask your child questions:

- What is happening there?
- What is there to discover?
- What do you like best?

Encourage your child to tell you about what you just read.

Or make up a new story together.



# What is the best way to read to a child?

**There is no right or wrong when it comes to reading to a child!**

Reading out loud is not hard at all and quite easy to do! And it will work best if everybody feels comfortable.

You can change your voice, read loudly and softly, slowly and fast – but you don't have to. Children love being read to, no matter how!



**Reading fits into your everyday life!**



Especially in stressful situations, you might often think: Now I should read to my child on top of everything else, do I have to?

Don't worry, reading does not need to take long. And it can often have a relaxing effect. Little stories can easily be integrated in your everyday life, e.g. while waiting for the bus, at the doctor's or before going to sleep.



# At a glance: What reading does for you ...

- Reading promotes speech development in children
  - Reading creates a sense of closeness
  - Reading helps your child express his or her feelings
  - Reading helps children understand others
  - Reading helps your child concentrate
  - Reading stimulates the imagination
  - Reading makes you smart
- ... and reading is just so much fun!**



# My child is too restless for me to read – what now?

If your child gets restless while you read, involve him or her: Ask questions or describe the pictures together.

Sometimes, it also helps to let your child play around for a little bit first.

Then he or she will be more at ease to look at books together with you.

And if nothing works, you close the book and simply read to your child a little later.



## Do I need to read to my child in German?

No! Many things your child learns from reading and storytelling is not tied to one particular language. Feel free to read in the language in which you otherwise speak to your child as well.





## Tip 2: Reading is so much more!

Stories are a great starting point to do crafts together, to draw or to sing a song.

- Drawing is the first step to learning how to write.
- Listening to songs and singing activates many areas of the brain.  
When you sing together, you help your child express himself or herself in a better way.



# And what about other media?

Children love cell phones, tablets and the like.

Even better that many digital offers are suitable for reading and practicing speech in a playful way.

It is important for parents to know which media are suitable for their children.

And how long these may be used without overloading children.

## Reading and playing with apps

Nowadays, there are many children book apps.

In addition to a little story, these apps also offer many elements to play along.

## Reading with audio books

If one day you are too busy to read, however, audio books or children programs on the radio are an alternative.



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**You may also find many digital media to rent at your library.**

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## Tip 3: Use media in a targeted way



Experts recommend: Children from the age of three should spend a maximum of half an hour a day in front of the television set, the PC or with other media.

For many children are not able to process videos and moving images so well.



It's best if you discover the media together with your child. Assist in his or her orientation.

Agree on clear rules when, where and how long the media can be used.



Digital media may also complement books. They can be a nice distraction while traveling, during waiting times or for children and parents keen on technology.



# Which books are suitable for my child?

Each child is different! Involve your child therefore in the selection of books he or she is interested in.

Animal characters and factual stories are especially popular with almost all children.

Many children also like books featuring characters they know from television or the internet.

When children start attending preschool at the latest, other subjects will become interesting as well, such as friendship or daily routines.

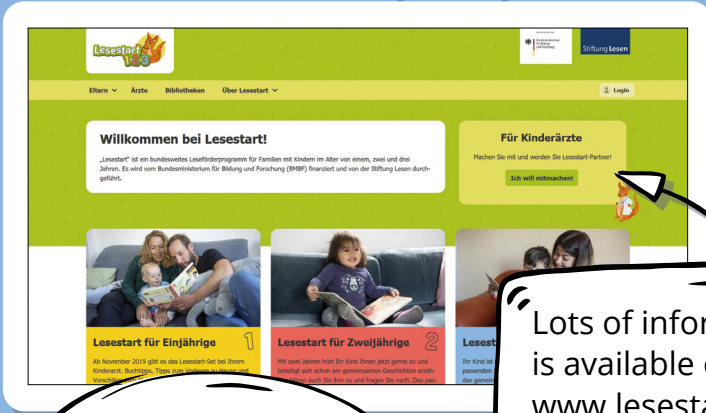
Rhymes will awaken the desire for language games.

First non-fiction and hidden-object books will foster the joy in discovering new things.





## Tip 4: Where to find picture books and stories



Lots of information is available on [www.lesestart.de](http://www.lesestart.de). There, you will also find all of the Lesestart books.

 **einfach vorlesen!**

Stories to read to children on your smartphone or tablet are available free of charge at [www.einfachvorlesen.de](http://www.einfachvorlesen.de).

Suitable picture books, even in languages other than German, are available at the library or book store.



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