

Vorlesen und Erzählen

mit Kindern ab

1

Reading and Storytelling for
Children from the age of 1



English | English



GEFÖRDERT VOM



Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung

Stiftung Lesen

Dear Parents,

This brochure contains many tips and information about reading aloud and storytelling with children who are 1 and up. Look at picture books as often as possible with your young child.

By doing so, you will help your child learn to speak. You can get started with the Lesestart book.

We wish you a wonderful time together and lots of fun reading aloud and looking at picture books.

Yours truly, Federal Ministry
of Education and Research

Yours truly, German
Reading Foundation



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Is it possible to read to babies and small children?



Reading aloud to small children means looking at pictures in books and saying something about them and turning the pages together.

In the beginning your child will most likely treat the book like a toy. Don't be surprised if your baby crawls away, puts the book in his/her mouth, or pushes it away. That is perfectly normal and will slowly change.

You will soon see that your child has a favorite book which he/she will always want to look at.



Tip 1: Just read aloud

Try it with the Lesestart book. If you look at the pictures together, you can:

- imitate noises,
- list off what you see on the page,
- ask questions about the pictures,
- think together about whether you have the things in your home,
- play a finger game together
- and much more ...



How does my child benefit from reading aloud and storytelling?

It helps learn to speak

The first few years of life are especially important for language development.

Your child will learn to speak well if you talk to your child a lot. Picture books are great for this.



Have fun together

Just by looking at picture books and talking, your young child realizes that you are making an effort to spend lots of time with him/her.

Playing, laughing, and cuddling are all part of looking at picture books. Your child associates many good feelings with reading aloud.



Reading aloud helps your child to learn new words.

At a glance: Tips for reading aloud and storytelling with very young children

Reading aloud is the most fun in a cozy and comfortable spot.

If you look at picture books together and on a regular basis, it will become a set part of your daily family life.

During the day there are many opportunities to speak with your child such as at mealtimes, on walks, when playing, or before bed.

Reading aloud and storytelling work best in the language you speak best.



How does my child learn to talk?

A child can't do everything at once. He/she learns bit by bit at his/her own pace. It's the same with language.

By 12 months

In the first year of life your baby is fully developing his/her senses and putting many things in his/her mouth.

He/she looks at things, touches them, and starts to play with them, like a picture book, for instance.



12-24 months

Usually your child learns to talk during the second year of life.

He/She can point to things in the picture book which you say.

You child really enjoys songs, rhymes, and finger games. You can start by talking to each other about what the animal in the book is doing or the color of the ball.

Your child already understands a great deal.



Tip 2: Rhymes and songs are part of the fun

Rhymed and sung verses which you show with finger and hand movements encourage your child to speak and imitate.

Move your fingers up and down your child's arm. Then tickle your child's stomach. The rhyme is set to the melody of "Brother John".



Little snail, little snail,
go crawl up,
go crawl up,
and crawl down again,
and crawl down again,
Tickle your tummy
Tickle your tummy.



How do reading aloud and story-telling fit into my daily family life?

Young children learn by imitation

It's the same with reading, they do what they see grownups doing when they sit on the sofa and flip through brochures or read magazines or books.

Regularity

If you read regularly and tell stories, you are giving your child security through familiar routines.



Don't force anything

There are situations in which it makes no sense to read aloud such as when your child is hungry or wants to romp around.

But when your child needs calm, picture books are just the right thing. That is the time right before bed, at the doctor, or on a bus or train.

Going to sleep with stories

Often it is hard for young children to go to bed.

Reading aloud is a good way to end the day on a calm note.

In the beginning it can take a while until your child calms down. That is perfectly normal.



Tip 3: Reading aloud works in all languages

Do I have to read in German?

No, much of what your child learns during reading aloud and storytelling is not tied to a particular language. Do it in the language you normally use to talk to your child.

Your child feels comfortable when he/she hears the familiar language.

Picture books and digital media

What books are suitable for very young children?

Books for young children are made of sturdy material such as thick cardboard or fabric. After all, children play with books like they do with other things.

The first picture books show pictures of simple things which a child knows from his/her everyday life.

Over time, children can also understand first scenes in which people or animals are doing something. There is also more and more text.



What about digital media?

Young children are hardly able to process videos and moving images.

They can best discover their world with picture books and stories.

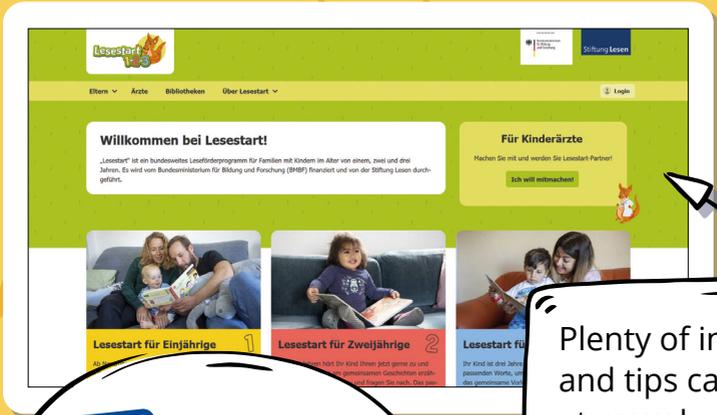
Later on, picture book apps complement books nicely.



Very young children are best able to discover their world with picture books and stories.



Tip 4: Here are some picture books and stories



Plenty of information and tips can be found at www.lesestart.de.



Stories to read aloud on the smartphone or table are available free of charge at www.einfachvorlesen.de.

Suitable picture books are available at the library or in the book store.



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