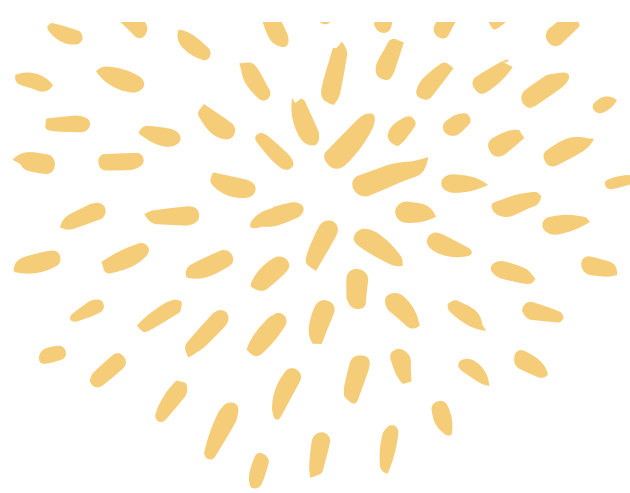


One of the
greatest gifts
we can give
to our children
is that of story
– by which their
imagination
will be
nourished
and the world
will become
a place
of wonder.

(Saxby,1997,p.i)



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**Some important
factors in helping
your child
learn to read.**

Research over many decades has proved that there are some important things that, parents and caregivers can do to help young children's talking and listening, reading and writing.

Three things you can do to help:

1. A home with **lots of talking, telling stories and reading together**. Parent and caregiver/child conversations will help develop a child's spoken language, imagination and build a rich bank of words they know and understand. Opportunities for young children to listen to, ask questions and 'talk' about stories being told and read with parents and caregivers and to play with sounds and words through rhymes and songs are all important. The child may also enjoy responding to the story through retelling it. They may want to pretend they are one of the characters or draw their favourite part of the story.

2. **Share stories and books** that help build your child's imagination. Talk about them. They build a child's understanding of self and others and help them make sense of their place in the world. They will also learn the meaning of more words and how they look and go together. Easy access to books at home enables a child to choose what they want to 'read' and talk about.

3. **Seeing parents and caregivers** and other family members reading and writing for different reasons and asking your child to join in will help them understand more about how we make meaning. Ask them to help you 'read' a recipe, look for items you need when shopping, write a birthday card for a friend...

