



## Does book reading help school readiness?

Reading and listening comprehension involves lots of different skills. One of these is making links between different pieces of information in a story, or between information in a story and children's own experiences. Making these links is called **inferencing**, and it is essential when children start to read independently. On top of all the benefits of reading, we'd like to find out if encouraging inferencing during reading helps children to understand what's going on behind the scenes of the story.



Helping children to develop an awareness of this behind-the-scenes information will get them started on their reading journey!

### What we'd like you to do:

- **The books**

During the four-week study, we'd like you to read one of our books **every day** with your child. Don't worry if you miss a day, just aim to read five days in every week. You have a pack of different books, so you should read each one **at least twice** during the study. You can read them in any order you like, and you can keep track of what you've read in the bookreading diary.

- **The questions**

Each book contains stickers with questions for you to ask and your child to answer while you're reading together. To make it fun, we have given you a cuddly toy called *Todd the Tiger*, and included pictures of him with the questions – it might be fun to get Todd to ask some of the questions. You can remind your child to look out for Todd while you're reading, and encourage them to have a go at answering all of his questions. It doesn't matter whether your child gets the questions right or wrong. The main thing is that you **respond** to them after they have answered – however they have answered. There are lots of possible answers they can give!

If your child struggles to answer a question or gets it wrong, show them how they could have answered by highlighting the information they need. The labels in the books show you how to do this. For example:

Why do you think Percy needs an extra blanket tonight?

I don't know

Perhaps he's trying to warm up. Can you remember what the weather was like outside? ..... It was very cold.



- **The diary**

After each reading session, tick off the book you have read in the bookreading diary. Write the date, and any notes about how the session went, e.g. did your child get all, most, some, or none of the questions right? Did your feedback help them?


*Please turn over.*

### Things to remember:

- Read one book a day, five days a week.
- Ask all of the questions in the book
- Give your child feedback on what they say: the labels in the books will help you do this.
- Give lots of praise and encouragement.
- If you have time, look through a book before you read it with your child for the first time.
- Spend about 15 minutes a day reading the books and asking questions.
- Tick and date the books you've read in the bookreading diary.



### Hints and tips

- ★ **Remove distractions.** Help your child to focus on the book and on you by turning off the TV and other electronic devices while you read. 
- ★ Sit close together in a **comfortable space** so your child can see your face and the book. This will keep your child interested.
- ★ **Create different voices for characters.** Don't be embarrassed about giving characters funny voices. It will help your child to differentiate between characters, and will keep them interested in the book. Facial expressions are great for conveying a character's emotions.
- ★ **Make it fun!** Reading should be fun for both of you. If your child loses interest in a book, try to make it more lively (Todd should help with this!). If you still can't regain their attention, you can either whizz to the end of the book, or put it down and come back to it later.



### How to make time for reading

- ★ Make reading part of your **daily routine** e.g. read to your child after breakfast, after lunch, or at bedtime.
- ★ **Ask others for help** to free up your time so you can read with your child.

Making time for reading means that you are making special **one-to-one time** to spend with your child.

**Good luck and have fun!** We'll be in touch during the next month to find out how things are going. When the four weeks are up, we'll look forward to seeing you at the University when we'll play some final language games with your child.

**Thank you for volunteering! Your time and effort will help us understand much more about children's language comprehension.**