Reading to your child on a daily basis throughout childhood is one of the most important factors in raising a reader for life, and creating a family reading habit enriches child-parent bonds.

Why is it important for parents & carers to SHARE STORIES with children?

65% of 5-7 YEAR OLDS read to themselves when they are read to every day or nearly every day

73% of 8-13 YEAR OLDS read to themselves when they are read to every day or nearly every day

Source: Nielsen Children’s Deep Dive 2017

• Parents reading to children stimulates independent reading for pleasure.
• Reading, especially at bedtime, provides quality moments for both parent and child.
• For children, being read to is fun, deeply reassuring and calming.
• For parents, reading to a child is a bonding and affirming experience.

Source: Print Matters More, Egmont UK 2016

• A supportive home environment is important for the development of reading enjoyment and the development of positive attitudes towards reading. One element of a supportive home environment is shared reading (or reading aloud).
• Regardless of a family’s income, children whose parents read to them when they were just starting school develop a greater sense of enjoyment of reading than those whose parents did not read to them or read to them infrequently.

Source: Let’s Read Them a Story! The Parent Factor in Education, OECD, 2012

The benefits of READING FOR PLEASURE

Creating a love of reading for pleasure in children is critical. Enjoyment, creativity, imagination, greater self-esteem, empathy, relaxation, escapism and improved communication skills are well-known benefits of reading. And for adults, it can lead to a reduction in dementia and depression symptoms.

Source: The Reading Agency Literature Review: The impact of reading for pleasure and empowerment, 2015

Reading engagement and reading for pleasure lead to a range of social, personal and intellectual outcomes. These include enjoyment, social and cultural capital, social interaction, knowledge, creativity, empathy, self-expression and understanding of self and others.

Source: Read on. Get on.

Reading for pleasure is positively linked with the following literacy-related benefits:
• reading attainment and writing ability for reading
• text comprehension and grammar
• breadth of vocabulary
• positive reading attitudes, which are linked to achievement in reading
• greater self-confidence as a reader

Source: National Literacy Trust

Reading for enjoyment has also been found to have an impact on how well children and young people perform at school in general:
• Children who read for enjoyment are likely to do significantly better at school than their peers (Sullivan and Brown, 2013)
• Reading for enjoyment has been linked to other learning outcomes, such as a higher performance in maths and science. (PISA, OECD, 2011)