

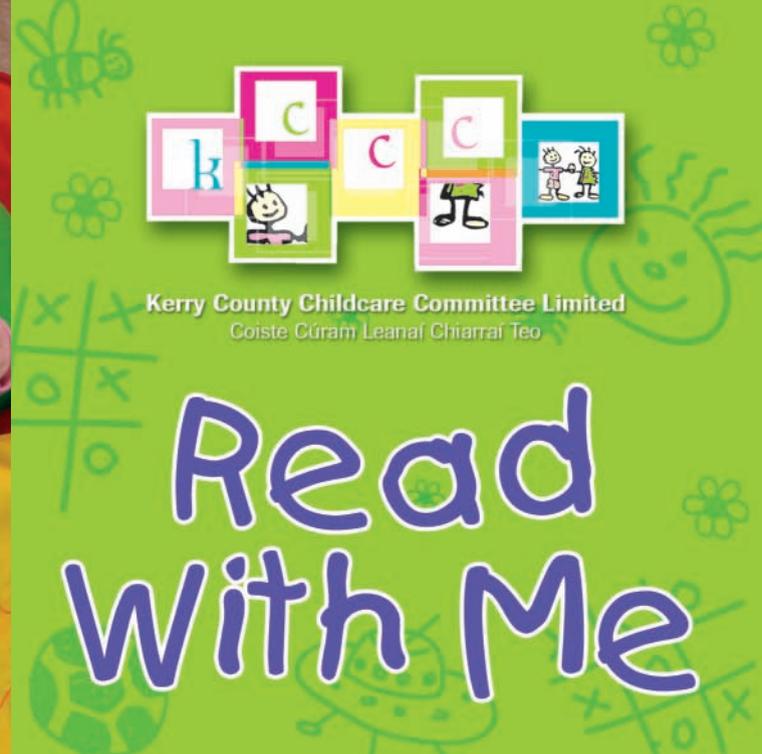
THE GOLDEN RULES

(Taken from 'Read with Me' - Basic Skills Agency, 2004)

- Make reading a time of pleasure for you both
- Start sharing books even before your child knows which way up to hold a book
- Learn to accept your child's efforts with praise
- Read books your child loves
- Focus on the things which are right, not on mistakes
- Keep reading to children even after they've learned to read independently
- Stop when they've had enough

For some children learning to read will seem to happen easily and quickly. For others, more time and support will be needed. Whatever the case, your help will be a powerful influence over your child's development as a reader.

For all children, praise, encouragement, reassurance and pleasure, are the vital factors towards becoming a confident reader.



KERRY COUNTY BRANCH LIBRARIES

Ballybunion Library
Tel: (068) 27615

Killarney Library
Tel: (064) 6632655

Caherciveen Library
Tel: (066) 9472287

Killorglin Library:
Tel: (066) 9761272

Castleisland Library
Tel: (066) 7163403

Listowel Library:
Tel: (068) 23044

Dingle Library
Tel: (066) 9151499

Tralee Library:
Tel: (066) 7121200

Kenmare Library
Tel: (066) 6641416

Mobile Library

Kerry County Childcare Committee
2 James Street, Tralee, Co. Kerry
(066) 7181582



Transforming Ireland

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READ WITH ME:

SHARING BOOKS WITH ADULTS HELPS CHILDREN WITH LEARNING TO READ

We all want to help our children with reading but we may not be sure how to go about it. We may think that teachers are the best people to help a child with reading and that parents should not interfere. But parents can instil a love of reading long before a child goes to school and continue to nurture a love of reading as the child grows.

ENJOYMENT OF BOOKS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR WHEN LEARNING TO READ

Parents need to create situations where books and reading are associated with happy times. Children who know that reading brings pleasure are more likely to become lifelong readers. The KCCC Resource Library has a collection of children's books and stories that have many features loved by children – rhythm, rhyme, repetition, humour and an element of surprise. Many of the stories present children with issues of loneliness, loss and uncertainty which can be confronted in a secure, loving environment. Reading together creates an opportunity for talking about events in the stories and in the world around them, that children find interesting or puzzling. Many of these stories offer children the opportunity to express their fears and concerns and allow parents to give reassurance by answering their questions and providing explanations.

SHARING BOOKS WITH CHILDREN

1 – 3 months

Babies will enjoy simple picture books and listening to your voice so introduce cloth or board books into your daily routine.

4 – 8 months

Read simple picture board books and let your child handle them. Choose brightly illustrated books and books that are interactive – lift the flap, turn the wheel, textures to stroke etc.

8 – 18 months

A variety of picture books can be used. Encourage them to share the book with you and point out familiar objects to you.

18 – 24 months

Share picture books everyday. Your child will start to point to increasingly detailed illustrations and progress to turning pages one at a time. Books about familiar situations are most appropriate at this stage.

24 – 36 months

Share familiar and favourite stories and non fiction texts (animal books, counting books etc) regularly. Stories with strong rhythms and repeated language patterns encourage participation in the telling of the story. When new stories are introduced encourage predictive skills by asking questions about what might happen next and let your child use the pictures to tell you the story.

3 – 5 years

At this stage children should know that books give pleasure.

Read to your child as often as possible. Try to keep a special time for reading, when you can cuddle up together. Bring stories to life with lots of expression and silly voices. Talk about the stories and pictures. Read favourite books over and over. Encourage your child to bring books home from nursery or school. Go to your local library. Play a game of 'spot the words' on signs and labels on the street, in shops, in your cupboards.

5 – 6 years

Take turns to read bits of a favourite story. Talk about pictures and details that catch your child's interest. Run your finger under the words as you read together. Don't make a fuss if your child can't read a word. Either say the word yourself or encourage your child to think about what it might say. At this stage it is more important that your child enjoys sharing stories than getting every word right. Play alphabet and sound games such as 'I spy'. Continue to read to your child everyday. Write notes or text messages to your child as it is a great way to get them to focus on words.