

## I learn to talk ... from YOU!

### Tips for you as a family

- Make reading to your children part of your everyday routine. 15 minutes of reading a day have a beneficial effect on your children.
- Make use of waiting times to read to your children. There is always space for a booklet in your bag.
- Offer your children a variety of books.
- Make use of libraries and their offers:
  - Cardboard picture books are suitable for toddlers and small children.
  - Touch-and-feel books address more senses and activate children.
  - Hidden object books without any text encourage children to discover things and to talk about them.
  - Non-fiction books and encyclopedias make children curious and widen their knowledge.
  - Stories with rhymes and repetitions help children concentrate and encourage them to speak along.
- Do not be surprised if your children want you to read the same book over and over again. Be happy about it, your children learn a lot from these books.

#### No time for reading?

- Audio books, Apps, "Tiptoi"-books, and other media can be an alternative or addition to reading.
- Maybe there is someone else among your relatives or friends who can read to your children.

#### No books in your first language(s) available?

- Telling your children stories or inventing stories with them can be a good alternative.
- Use hidden object books without any text to speak about what your children see.

### CHILDREN AND THEIR LANGUAGE(S)

Language learning in the family

3. How do children playfully develop their love for language and literacy?

Further leaflets from this series and its translations into various languages are available at:



Useful Links:



#### Kindergarten

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# How do children playfully develop their love for language and literacy?

# 3

Books are **ONE** key to communication, education, and knowledge.

### CHILDREN AND THEIR LANGUAGE(S)

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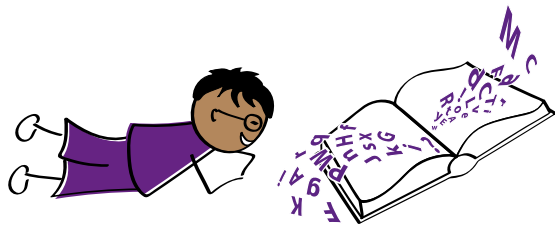


ENGLISCH  
ENGLISH

AUTONOME PROVINZ  
BOZEN - SÜDTIROL



PROVINCIA AUTONOMA  
DI BOLZANO - ALTO ADIGE



## Reading to your children

The language used in books usually offers a wide range of new words and sentence structures. Therefore, it allows your children to further develop their linguistic skills.

## Reading to your children strengthens ...

### ... your emotional relationship with your children

Reading to your children is one way of spending time with them and of establishing a meaningful relationship. While listening to you, your children experience a feeling of safety and closeness and enjoy your full attention. Reading together creates moments of calmness and relaxation. Stories make space for fantasy and creativity and strengthen your children emotionally. The characters in stories give your children the opportunity to experience, understand, and communicate emotions. They can identify with characters and process their everyday experiences. And above all, it is fun!

### ... your children's linguistic and cognitive development

Through reading, your children are introduced to a culture of storytelling, reading and writing. Your children learn new words and language which they do not come across in everyday situations. Listening to and telling stories helps them develop their vocabulary and grammar. In addition, books allow children to enter the world of symbols and writing. Children understand that written words have a meaning which can be decoded ("read"). This is the basis for learning how to read and write. Books make curious and give answers. Hence, they widen your children's knowledge. Reading boosts your children's perceptive skills as well as their concentration, their memory and perseverance in learning.

## Reading to your children: This is how to do it

Take your time, find a comfy place, and create a relaxing atmosphere. Choose books which you and your children like. Enthusiasm is contagious.

### Read to your children vividly:

- > Experiment with your voice: e.g., the bear speaks with a low and deep voice.
- > Use gestures and facial expressions.
- > Look at the pictures together and talk about them.
- > Expand on your children's questions and comments.
- > Let your children tell the story.
- > Encourage your children to think by asking questions:
  - > What do you think?
  - > What happens next?
  - > Which character would you like to be?
  - > Why is this character happy?
  - > ...
- > Make reading a special ritual in the family.



## The benefits of reading to your children in your own language. It ...

- > consolidates your children's first language and enables them to learn new languages more easily.
- > strengthens your children's positive emotional and personal attitude towards their own language.
- > helps your children develop their identity.
- > creates the basis for learning further languages.
- > familiarizes your children with the script of their first languages.

