

# Supporting Children by Reading at Home



## Why is learning to read so important?

“Reading is the one ability, that once set in motion, has the ability to feed itself, grow exponentially and provide a basis from which possibilities are limitless.”

(Michael Morpurgo)

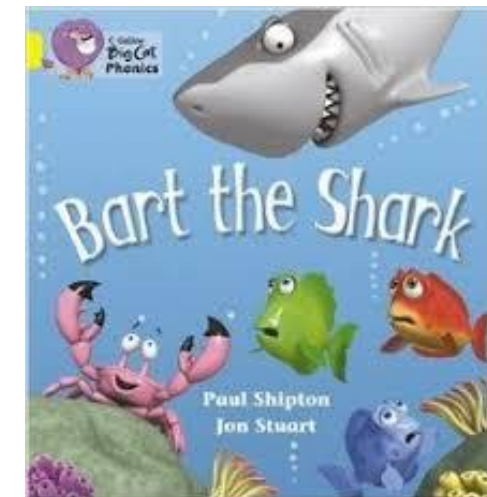
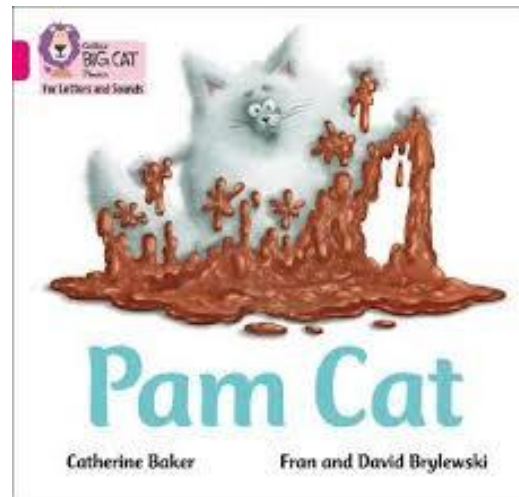
# The importance of talk

Children from 'talk a lot' families have heard **33 million words** by the age of 3 and will have had **1700 hours** of stories.

Children from 'not talk a lot' families have only heard **9 million words** by the age of 3 and will have only had **25 hours** of stories.

# Decodable books

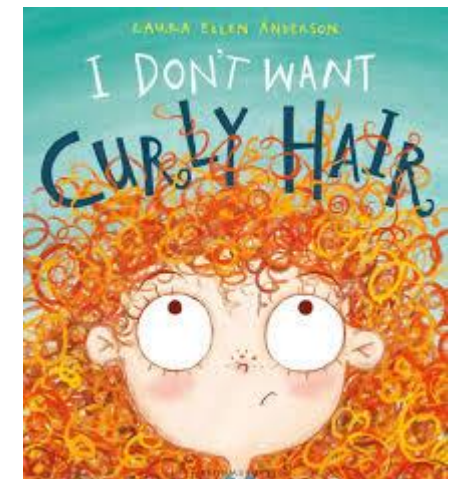
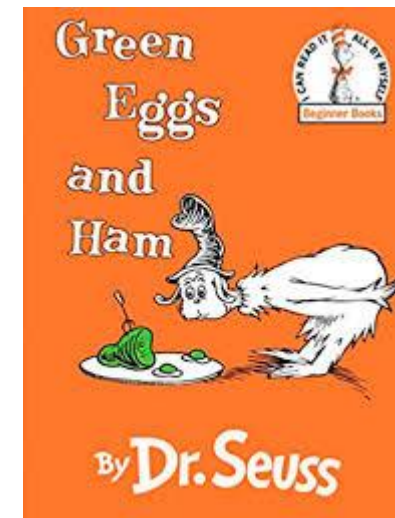
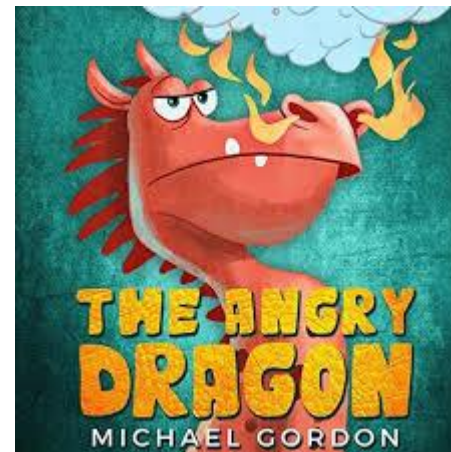
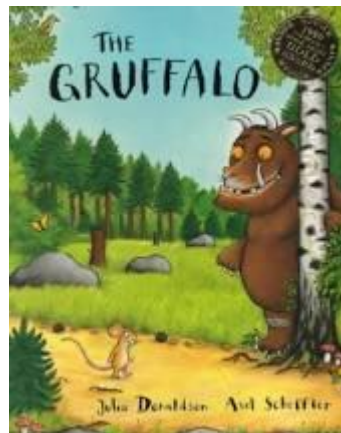
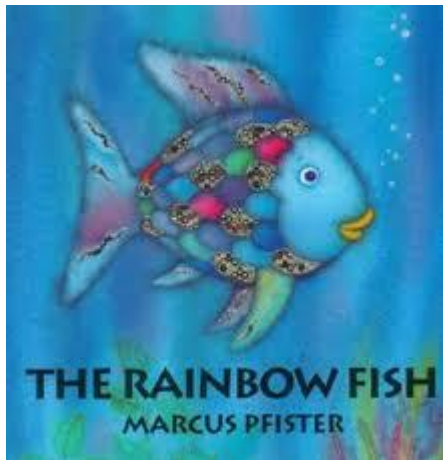
These books are closely matched to your child's phonic knowledge and enable them to practice reading words containing letters they already know. Repeated reading of these books helps children to store words in their long term memory.



# 'Real' books

Did you know that *being read to* is the most powerful predictor of your child's future reading comprehension?

As well as practising with decodable books, being read to is also really important for your child to develop a love of reading and to increase their vocabulary.



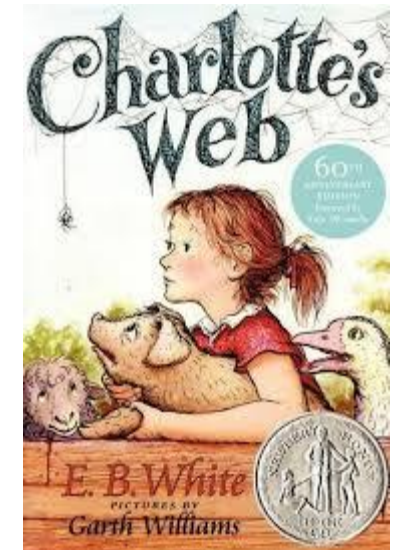
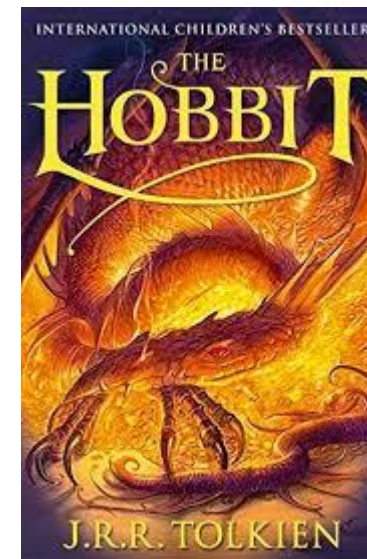
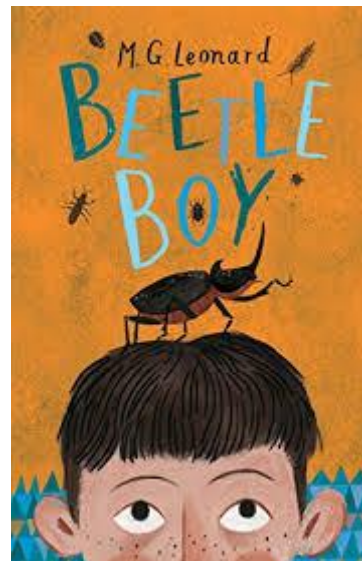
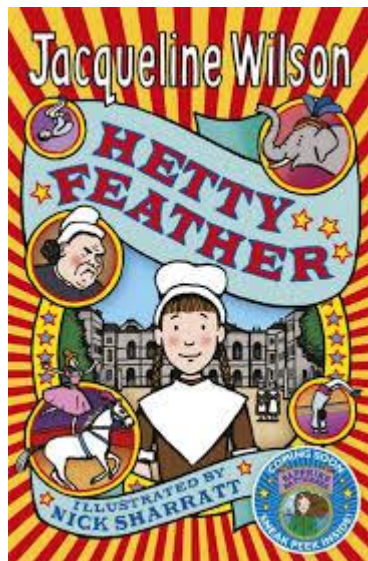
# Pavlovian impact of oxytocin

Reading together releases oxytocin, the ‘love’ hormone and paves the way for children to become lifelong readers.

Mummy loves me  
I love mummy  
Mummy loves books  
I love books.



Don't stop reading to your child, even when they can read by themselves. The oxytocin effect still applies!



By reading aloud to your child every day, you are fusing the act of reading with comfort and love – you are hardwiring their brains for success.

## When you read to your child you give them:

- *Your* attention
- The ability to pay attention, to focus on something shared
- Time to chat
- A breadth of vocabulary and a deeper understanding of language
- Knowledge of new places and people, real and imagined
- Knowledge of how stories work
- Understanding of analogy
- The ability to think ahead, hypothesize and infer what characters are thinking
- Opportunity to discuss moral issues: right from wrong
- Phonological sensitivity to alliteration, rhyme and rhythm





# Top tips when reading aloud...

- Make it feel like a treat – enjoy the time together
- Show excitement about what you are going to read
- Read the whole story/chapter without stopping too much
- Chat about the story
- Don't ask questions to test what they remember
- Link stories to experiences and other stories
- Read their favourite stories again and again
- Get them to join in with the bits they remember
- Read with enthusiasm, try out different voices



# Free online books

Hold control and click to visit the websites. There are thousands of online books here!



# Stories to listen to together

Hold control and click to visit the websites and listen to stories being read by authors, actors and other people!



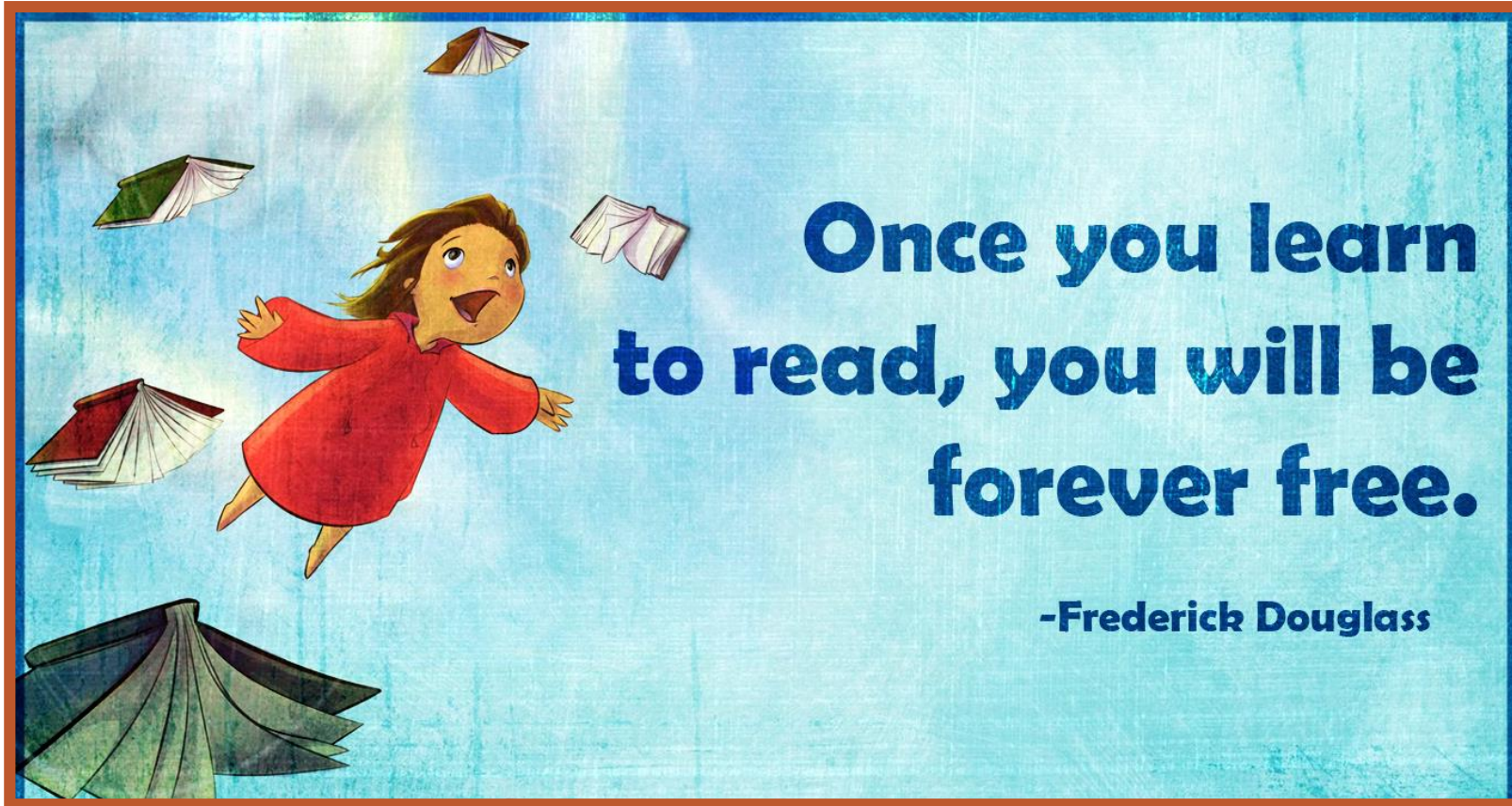
Kids poems and stories  
with Michael Rosen



Storytime Online



Link to other stories



**Once you learn  
to read, you will be  
forever free.**

**-Frederick Douglass**