



Reading To Your Young Child

- Try to read to your child every day.
- Find a time when you and your child are relaxed and ready for some quiet time together, such as at bedtime.
- If your child will not sit for long or doesn't show an interest in books, read anyway as he/she plays quietly, calling him/her over to look with you from time to time.
- Read with lots of expression, using different voices for different characters. Act out the story.
- Point to the pictures as you talk about them.
- Colourful picture books with few words are good with the very young. First words and ABC books have great pictures of familiar objects. Lift-the-flap books encourage participation, too. Let your child's interest guide you as to how much of the words to read.
- Let your child choose which book to read; let your child hold it and turn the pages. If they choose the same book to read over and over again, keep reading it!
- Model reading - books, magazines, flyers etc.



northern health
the northern way of caring

northernhealth.ca

Why Reading with Children is So Important!

Children's brains are developing at an incredible rate in their early years. The brain grows to 90% of its adult weight in the first three years of life! Sharing stories, rhymes and songs nourishes this **brain development** and this can have a lasting effect on a child's ability to learn to read.



Reading with children is **fun!** Children's literature is delightful, funny, magical, moving. It gives you and your child a shared experience - characters and situations to talk about afterwards. It is a cozy time together.

Children learn to look and listen, to connect ideas, to answer questions and to tell their own stories, when you read to them.

The words and language used in books is more varied and complex than what we use in normal everyday conversations. Reading opens the wider world to the child providing opportunity for **vocabulary development** and giving **experience with the written word**.

Songs, nursery rhymes and many children's books use a lot of **rhythm, rhyme and repetition**. Children love this and learn skills, which are the early building blocks to literacy.

Visit your local public library for children's books and programs.

For more information contact your Speech-Language Program

North West

Masset	250-626-4715
Prince Rupert	250-622-6380
Smithers	250-847-6400
Terrace	250-631-4233
Village of Queen Charlotte	250-559-4361

Northern Interior

Prince George	250-565-7370
Quesnel	250-983-6810



northern health
the northern way of caring