The benefits of reading to your son

Christ Church Grammar School
PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Parents play a significant role in the development and educational performance of their children.

Reading to children at age four to five daily has a significant positive effect on their reading skills and cognitive skills (i.e. language and literacy, numeracy and cognition) later in life.

- Reading to children three to five days every week (compared to two or fewer) has the same effect on the child's reading skills at age four to five as being six months older.
- Reading to them six to seven days per week has the same effect as being almost 12 months older.
- Children who are read to more frequently at age four to five achieve higher scores on the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests for both Reading and Numeracy in Year 3 (age eight to nine).
- These differences in reading and cognitive skills are not related to the child's family background or home environment but are the direct result of how frequently they have been read to prior to starting school.

When children are read to they:

- develop new concepts and vocabulary
- learn new grammar in accurate ways
- hear clearly articulated sounds and words
- hear about new ideas, concepts, places, people, cultures and situations
- learn about how texts work
- understand how language is used to communicate in sophisticated ways

The positive attitude towards reading begins well before boys enter school, even though reading skills are developed in the first few years of schooling.

This is where parents really assist their boys. By allowing modelling, practice and engagement with texts, boys learn the value of reading at home. The skill of reading is something that should be celebrated at home and as such, opportunities for boys to read aloud, discuss something they have read or talk about things they would like to read should be encouraged.

Some helpful tips for parents

Read together daily

Try and make time to read to your son every day. Make this a special time when the two of you can cuddle close.

Talk about words

Build your son's vocabulary by talking about interesting words and objects. For example, "Look at the kangaroo! Can you see its pouch? I wonder what you would find in a pouch?"

Share how much you enjoy reading

Tell your son how much you enjoy reading with him. Talk about "story time" or "reading time" as a favourite part of your day.

Read with fun in your voice

Read to your son with humour and expression. Use different voices. Ham it up and make it fun!

Know when to stop

Put the book away if your son loses interest or attention.

Interact with the book

Discuss what's happening in the book, point out things you notice on the page, and ask questions.

Read it again and again

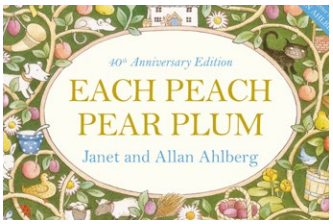
Go ahead and read your son's favourite story for the 100th time. He is learning a lot about the structure of different stories.

Reading Guide

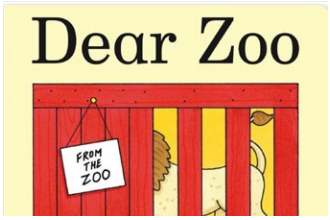
PRE-KINDERGARTEN TO YEAR 2

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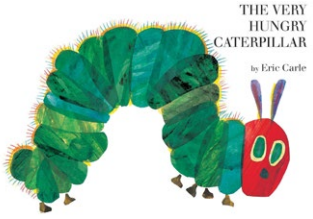
PRE-KINDERGARTEN



Each Peach Pear Plum
Allan and Janet Ahlberg



Dear Zoo
Rod Campbell

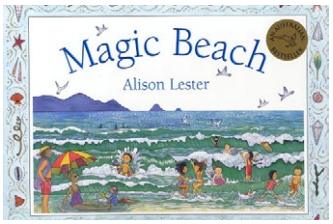


The Very Hungry Caterpillar
Eric Carle



Where's Spot?
Eric Hill

KINDERGARTEN



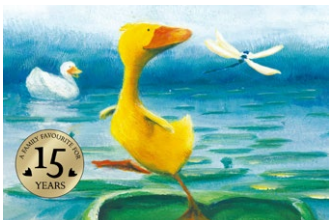
Magic Beach
Alison Lester



Big Rain Coming
Katrina Germein

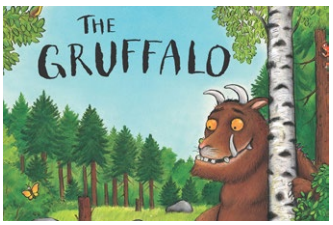


We're Going on a Bear Hunt
Michael Rosen



Come On, Daisy!
Jane Simmons

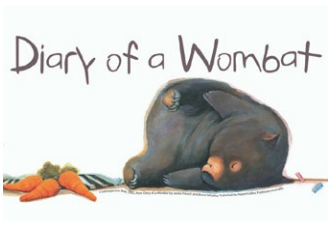
PRE-PRIMARY



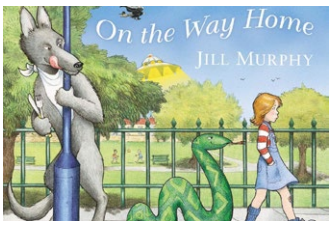
The Gruffalo
Julia Donaldson



Possum Magic
Mem Fox

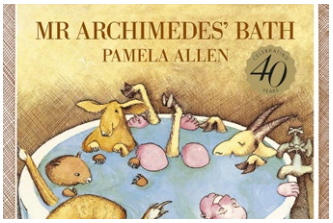


Diary of a Wombat
Jackie French

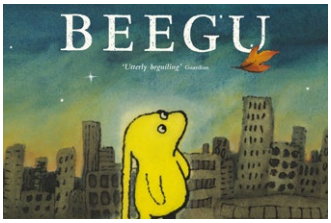


On the Way Home
Jill Murphy

YEAR 1



Mr Archimedes' Bath
Pamela Allen



Beegu
Alexis Deacon

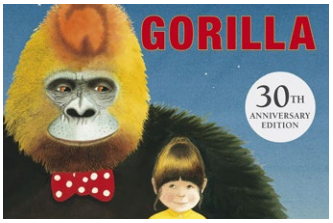


Lost and Found
Oliver Jeffers



Where The Wild Things Are
Maurice Sendak

YEAR 2



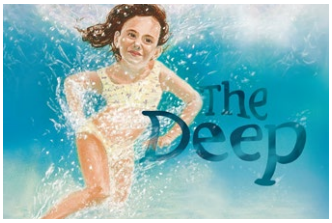
Gorilla
Anthony Browne



Emily Brown and the Thing
Cressida Cowell



Once There Was A Boy
Dub Leffler



The Deep
Tim Winton