

## Bumps and Babes

Share stories, songs and rhymes that will help your baby's development

### Importance of Shared Book Reading

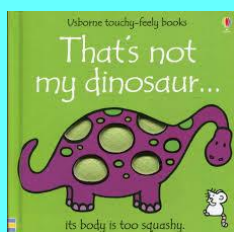
Reading stories together is a wonderful opportunity for some special time with your baby, to cuddle up and enjoy one another's company. It is never too early to start interacting with books. Board books are perfect for young babies to explore.

They might explore books by looking, touching or by putting them into their mouth, which is very normal sensory exploration for babies. Looking at books with your baby is a wonderful opportunity to expose your child to a wide range of vocabulary.

The more words your child hears, the more words they will eventually learn.

Reading stories together can happen at any time of the day! They do not just have to be for bedtime. Make sure books are available to your child at all times to explore and ensure they are easily accessible, for example not stored on high bookshelves

### Suggested Books



For very young babies, try board books and books with different textures to touch and feel e.g. 'That's Not My' range has lots of opportunities to hear new describing words and feel new textures.



You can borrow books for free from your local library or contact your local children's centre for a free Bookstart pack of resources.

As your baby develops into a toddler, you may want to try some of these classic books: *The Gruffalo*, *The Hungry Caterpillar*, *Owl Babies*, *Dear Zoo*, *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*, *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*

You are your child's first teacher. What you do matters!