Introducing
Early Reading Connects

Julia Strong, Director NRC, & Deputy NLT:
julia.strong@literacytrust.org.uk

The National Reading Campaign is delivered by the National Literacy Trust on behalf of the DCSF

Early Reading Connects

www.earlyreadingconnects.org.uk

department for children, schools and families

Imagine what a difference it would make if every child loved to read?

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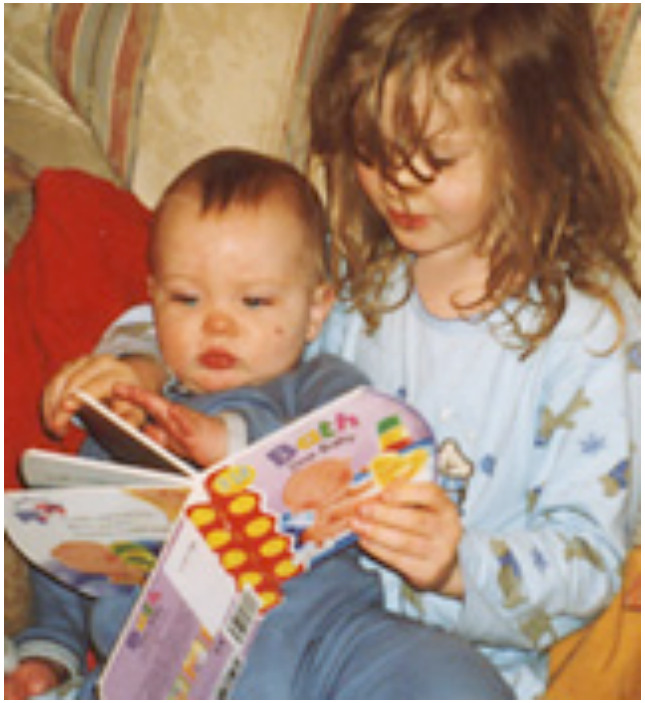
What was the greatest influence in turning you into a reader?



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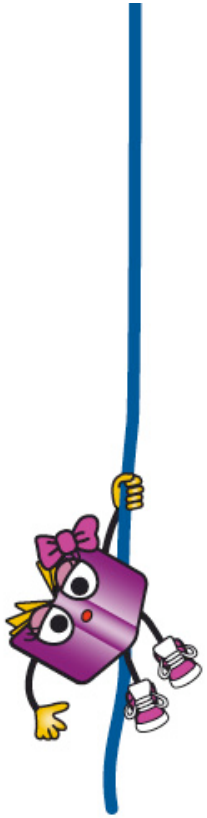
Recognising family involvement with reading as a priority



"Parental involvement in their child's reading has been found to be the most important determinant of language and emergent literacy." - Bus, van Jzendoorn and Pellegrini, 1995

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What has the biggest effect on children's academic performance?

- social class
- family size
- parental involvement
- level of parental education

What is Early Reading Connects?

Early Reading Connects brings together easy-to-access resources and great ideas from a wide range of early years organisations, settings and practitioners to help you:

- encourage a love of language, stories and reading among the babies, toddlers or young children in your care

- engage and involve the children's families in this process

- share good practice and resources and build your confidence in supporting the children and their families

Why you should join ERC today

FREE TO JOIN!

- National Recognition – a certificate and use of the logo
- Toolkit and evaluation grid to help get you started
- Website full of resources, practical tried-and-tested ideas and inspiring case studies
- Networking opportunities

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Encouraging a love of language, stories and reading

Join Early Reading Connects today. Help the children that you work with love reading, listening to and talking about stories.

See how Early Reading Connects works in real life. Look at the super suggestions to find out what some early years practitioners are doing

NEWS - The welcome pack and Early Reading Connects family involvement toolkit will be ready to send to members in October.

NEWS - Early Reading Connects will be visiting the EYFS early years consultants regional meetings in October

2008 National Year of Reading

Get started now with the evaluation grid

Family Reading Adventure card

Booklist for 0-5- year-olds (pdf)

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Encouraging a love of language, stories and reading

Positive relationships

How best to support families in sharing books and stories with their children is central to Early Reading Connects. Below is a range of tips and case studies from practitioners outlining some simple ways of communicating and engaging with families so that they want to engage with activities to support their children's reading. And of course, to show families the benefit of sharing books and stories, it is vital that you regularly demonstrate this activity yourself.

Communicating with families

Practical ideas | Case studies | Resources

Supporting dads and male carers

Practical ideas | Case studies | Resources

Supporting young parents

Practical ideas | Case studies | Resources

Supporting adults' basic skills

Practical ideas | Case studies | Resources

If you have any more suggestions email rebecca.green@literacytrust.org.uk

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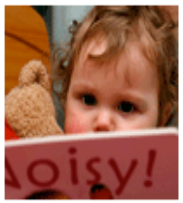

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Unique Child

- Use a game to help children explore stories
- Play the Handa's Surprise game

Positive Family Relationships

- Hold a Dad's Story session
- Get in touch with dads using texts and emails.

Enabling environment

- Put books in unusual places, not just the book corner
- Take children out into the local area to inspire new stories

Learning and development

- Make family storybooks
- Use Pie Corbett's storytelling technique

It’s time for a card game.

- Which of these ideas do you think would be the most useful?
- Can you think of any better suggestions?

0-3 years old

It's never too early to start sharing stories. Point out the pictures and encourage your baby to babble.

Your baby will love the sound of your voice. Find a quiet place to enjoy a story.

It's good to share favourite stories again and again. Repeating phrases helps build children's language.

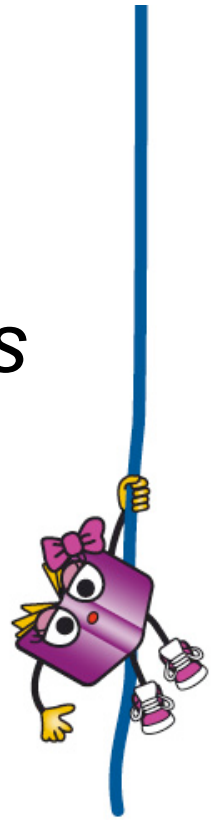
Family Reading Campaign

department for education and skills

www.familyreading.org.uk

2. Positive relationships with parents	**Developing**	**Establishing**	**Enhancing**
2a) Communication	Practitioners recognise the value of the speaking, reading and writing activities that already go on in the children's homes and support families in seeing the importance of sharing books with their children.	Practitioners talk to families about suitable books and how to share stories, songs and rhymes, and play word games with their children as part of everyday activities, like bath time.	Practitioners provide outreach support for families encouraging them to share books and stories and demonstrating book sharing activities where appropriate. Families can borrow resources after the session to take home.
2b) Supporting families in sharing books and other reading material with their children	Families feel welcome to come and share a book or a story with their child.	Families are supported in how to share stories engagingly and how to use everyday print around them to encourage an interest in words as part of daily routine like shopping or travelling on the bus.	Practitioners run activities for families showing how to share stories and use the print environment with their children to help develop language and a love of stories and books.
2c) Supporting dads/male carers	Practitioners know that dads and male carers may need extra encouragement to come into the setting and share play, rhymes, song and stories with their children.	Practitioners make sure their setting is welcoming to dads by making it father friendly and encouraging dads to share play, rhymes, song and stories with their children.	Practitioners provide outreach support for dads so that they take part in activities that encourage them to share play, rhymes, song and stories with their children.
2d) Supporting young mums and dads	Practitioners know that young mums and dads may need extra encouragement to come into the setting and engage with sharing play, rhymes, song and stories with their children.	Practitioners make sure their setting is welcoming to young mums and dads and that they are encouraged to engage with sharing play, rhymes, song and stories with their children.	Practitioners provide outreach support for young mums and dads so that they are supported in sharing play, rhymes, song and stories with their children.

“Our evaluation showed that all the children had enjoyed attending the sessions and were more interested in books as a result. Also the parents had learnt new activities and were more confident about reading with their children.” - Liz Kehoe, teacher from London.



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If we work together, our combined expertise and enthusiasm could help every parent help their child to love reading.

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