

Chat, play, read booklet practitioner guidance

What is the Chat, play, read booklet?

The Chat, play, read booklet is an A4 booklet designed to support parents and carers of children up to 3-year-olds to chat, play and read more with their children at home and while they are engaging in their daily routine. The booklet has been produced by the National Literacy Trust to support the **Start for Life** campaign and is available digitally in 18 languages with voiceovers. **The booklets aim to increase the frequency and quality of interactions between parent or carer and child.**

Access the booklets, translations and voiceovers on this webpage.
wordsforlife.org.uk/chat-play-read-booklet

Designed to be used in the home, the booklet provides a range of tips and activities that can be incorporated within daily routines.

The booklet includes:

- No-cost/low-cost activity ideas to support families to chat, play and read together at home.
- ‘*Good to know*’ information, explaining to parents how these activities will support their child’s development.
- QR codes taking families to web pages with videos demonstrating the activities in action.

The booklets are supported and extended on **Words for Life**, the National Literacy Trust's family-facing website. Here, parents and carers can find further guidance and tips on supporting their child’s early language and development at home.

Why use the chat, play, read booklet?

- The simple no-cost activity ideas with prompts and suggestions, will support families to incorporate more interactions with their child into the daily routine at home.
- By sharing the booklet, you will be helping parents to find more opportunities to interact with their child within their daily routine and offering guidance on
- how best to do this. This will support the development of their child’s language and communication skills.

- The booklet explains to parents the benefit of engaging in these types of activities and will provide greater motivation for parents to find more little moments in the day to interact with their child.

What is the role of early years practitioners?

Signposting parents to the Chat play read booklet is a great starting point. However, effective use of the resource and ongoing behaviour change is heightened when delivered to parents by a knowledgeable practitioner. The relationships you have with parents/carers will enable you to support them to use the booklet and the [Words for Life website](#) to build on what they are already doing.

Some parents may need your support to locate and download the walk and talk cards in their home language, and to be shown how to access the voiceovers.

How can practitioners use and support the use of the Chat, play, read booklet?

- Invite parents to join you for a series of short group sessions in your setting where you can model some of the activities in the booklet. Model and explain the benefits of the activities and talk about how similar activities could be replicated at home. For example, a story and song session, a memory game, or a make your own soundbox activity.
- Deliver Chat, play, read activities to the children in your setting and share photographs, observations, and feedback with families afterwards, alongside links to the booklet.
- Run a communication and language workshop for parents, including modelling of the Chat, play, read booklet.
- Invite parents to share photographs and comments about their experiences of chatting, playing, and reading at home on your social media pages or within your setting.

Follow up activities to consider:

You can find many ideas on the Words for Life website to help you to enable parents to support early language development at home:

- Maybe you'll start a regular story and singing session for families, this would help create opportunities to use and celebrate [home languages](#) spoken in your setting.
- You could arrange a [visit to the library](#), or invite a librarian to visit the setting and support families to sign up.

- You could deliver parent workshops or sessions to support them to understand the important role of songs and rhymes, and play within their child's early language development.
- Signpost families and support them in signing up to the Words for Life family newsletter.

Find additional Start for Life resources here:

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/themes/start-for-life/>

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