

## Practitioner guidance: Share stories with me booklet

### What is the Share stories with me booklet?

*Share stories with me* is a parent facing 16-page resource designed to help families build simple, joyful story\_sharing into everyday life with their young children. It supports parents and carers of children from bump to 5 years old with simple hints and tips to enjoy books and stories at home during daily routines such as mealtimes, bath time, or journeys.

The booklet is broken down into these key areas.

- Sharing a book
- Creating stories together
- Visiting the library
- How to create stories when out and about
- How to use technology as an effective tool to share stories with their child

The resource aims to increase the frequency and quality of shared story moments between parent or carer and child, helping to build early communication, bonding, and a love of books alongside promoting the library.

### Why use Share stories with me?

- The simple, no\_cost ideas help families weave story\_sharing into their daily routine.
- By sharing the resource, you help parents recognise the value of stories for language development, imagination, and emotional connection.
- The guidance explains *why* story\_sharing matters, giving parents greater motivation to find small moments in the day to look at books and talk together.
- Sharing stories supports children's vocabulary, attention, memory, and early communication skills.

## Why use Share stories with me?

Signposting parents to *Share stories with me* is a strong starting point, but its impact grows when introduced by a knowledgeable practitioner. Your relationships with families place you in the perfect position to:

- Encourage parents to use the resource at home.
- Model simple story\_sharing moments during sessions.
- Reassure parents that they don't need to be confident readers, their voice, attention, and presence are what matter most.
- Support families to find books and stories that match their child's interests and needs.
- Help families find books or stories in their home language and celebrate the languages spoken in your setting.

## What is the role of the early years practitioner?

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## How can practitioners use and support Share stories with me?

- **Invite parents to short group sessions** where you model story sharing, picture talking, and playful book interactions from the resource

- **Use share stories with me activities in your setting** and share photos, observations, or feedback with families, alongside links to the resource.
- **Run a story sharing workshop** that includes modelling of story sharing and early book play.
- **Encourage families to share photos or comments** about reading at home, either on your social media pages or within your setting.
- **Pair the resource with book loaning or book gifting**, showing parents how simple and enjoyable story sharing can be.

## How can health practitioners use and support the use of Share stories with me booklet?

- Include the Share stories with me booklet in your pathway, to enable universal access.
- Signpost at ante-natal check, post-natal 6–8 week and 9–month check, and include them in language intervention groups.
- Show parents how to share stories and books with their baby/child at appropriate times of the day.
- Signpost *Share stories with me* or have copies of the resource available to hand out.

## How can library practitioners use and support the use of the Share stories with me booklet?

Libraries are uniquely placed to champion story sharing and help families build joyful reading habits from the earliest months. The *Share stories with me* booklet builds on the strong work libraries already deliver, offering an additional tool for families.

Introduce the booklet during rhyme times, story sessions and baby groups, showing families how simple story sharing can be, even with very young children. Modelling, playful, low pressure story sharing.

- Use the booklet as part of library membership sign-up for families with children aged 0–5, helping parents understand how everyday moments support early communication and bonding.

- Use the booklet during outreach visits to nurseries, community groups, stay-and-plays and family hubs, helping families see the library as a welcoming, accessible space.

## Further parent facing resources available to families

Alongside *Share stories with me*, families can access a range of free, practical resources created by the National Literacy Trust to support early communication, language, and literacy at home. These resources are simple to use, designed for everyday routines, and available on our [Words for Life website](#).

Families can explore:

### Sing with me

A resource supporting families to use songs, rhymes, and playful sound making to build early communication and connection. Suitable for families with 0-5's.

### Chat, play, read booklet

A resource sharing no cost activity ideas, tips, and explanations to help parents chat, play, and read more with their child, as part of daily routines. Suitable for families with 0-3's.

### Walk and talk trail cards

Simple, engaging prompts for families to use while out and about, encouraging conversation, observation, and language development during everyday walks. Suitable for families with 0-5's.

### Little moments together

A collection of quick, easy ideas showing parents how small interactions, talking, playing, noticing, and responding, support their child's early development. There are two versions of this resource. One for families with babies 0-9 months and the other for families with children 10-24 months.