

Books for Babies

Books for Babies is based on the strong belief that it is important to share books with very young children - and that just as families should be provided with information about infant nutrition and physical health, they should also be encouraged to read and talk with their babies. The results of research has shown that speaking and listening, and experience with texts and stories at home during the pre-school years provide an essential preparation for literacy in all children. This sharing of books with young children will enhance the development of vital skills for learning to read, including use of language and speaking and listening skills.

Books for Babies thus aims to assist and encourage parents and their children to develop and improve their literacy skills.

It will do this through:

- The offer of reading resources to babies;
- Encouraging and supporting parents and carers in using books with their babies and young children;
- Encouraging book-borrowing and book-buying habits with both parents and children, together with confident and pleasurable use of libraries and bookshops.

Books for Babies is delivered through libraries in partnership with health services. It involves giving a free pack including 2 board books, a book list, a rhyme card and information about local libraries and bookshops, to the parents and carers of babies at the time of their 8 month developmental health check.

A comprehensive evaluation strategy has been drawn up by Dr Elaine Millard of Sheffield University and the Read On - Write Away! Books for Babies team. This aims to evaluate the impact of Books for Babies on all babies involved over a five year period.

Underlining Read On - Write Away!'s holistic approach to literacy, Books for Babies also offers opportunities to parents and carers to become involved in education and training.

Project Case Study:

"Megan is in the Books for Babies scheme. It made me realise that very young children can borrow books - I didn't know before. Ryan is taking part in the BRP scheme at school. He's coming on really well. He struggled with even simple books before. He can read more or less anything now. I joined a first aid course and then the key skills English. I've also been doing maths. Then I joined a computer class which was really good. I am now doing the BTEC Certificate, and I hope to do advanced computers in September. I have enjoyed them all very much and hope some day to get a job with all my qualifications."

- Mother from Gamesley

Further Details ...

For more information on the Read On - Write Away! Books for Babies Scheme, contact:

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