

READING ALOUD WITH YOUR YOUNG CHILD

Why is it important to read aloud with young children?

- The building blocks to help children learn to read and write are developed before they arrive at school. You can help develop these early literacy skills by reading aloud together.
- Reading aloud helps develop language; there are words in books that we may not hear in every day conversations. Reading helps to introduce new words to your child and build their vocabulary.
- Sharing time reading together helps develop a strong bond between you and your child, and in turn this helps your child get along with other people later in life.
- Young children will find it much harder to learn to read and write if they do not have the chance to look at books, play with books or have books read to them.

When you read aloud with your young child, you are not trying to “teach” the child to read before they begin school, but rather helping them develop a love of books. Your child will learn how a book works and get to know how much fun books can be.

How can you develop your child's early literacy skills so they are ready for school?

- Show your child that books are fun. When you are reading aloud, make funny noises and actions to match the pictures – if there is a snake, then slither on the floor or make arm actions and the hissing noise.

- Read the words aloud from the packets of food at home, such as cheese, milk, bread.
- Read signs aloud when you go out, such as Stop, Parking, Shell.
- Read the same book over and over. Your child will like this because they will remember what comes next. They may show you how they learn by filling in the words or telling you what is on the next page.
- Try to read some books with rhyming words; you may know nursery rhymes that you can share with your child. It can be great fun for children to try to guess the next line.
- Try to read some books where words or phrases are repeated. Once you have read the book a few times your child will know the repeated phrase and they will be able to say it when you point to the words. They will feel like they are reading.
- If you speak another language at home, then your child will benefit from learning this language from you. Talk to them and read to them in your home language most of the time.
- Share stories about your culture. You may be able to find some of your cultural stories in books as well.
- Make your own books with photos of your family and important events.
- Try to make time every day to share a book and tell a story.

More information about reading with your child is available at www.letsread.com.au

Proudly supported by



hba.com.au

An initiative of the Centre for Community Child Health, The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne

For further information contact the Centre for Community Child Health,
The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne.
Phone 03 9345 6150 or Fax 03 9345 5900 www.rch.org.au/ccch

© COPYRIGHT 2008. THIS PUBLICATION CAN BE PHOTOCOPIED FOR DISTRIBUTION TO PARENTS OR
DOWNLOADED FROM WWW.RCH.ORG.AU/CCCH

The **Royal Children's** 
Hospital Melbourne

Centre for Community Child Health

Taking care of families across Australia

Looking after the health care needs of Australian families is something we've been doing for more than 70 years. So, at HBA we're really excited to be promoting healthy children for life by supporting the Community Paediatric Review for the Centre for Community Child Health. We have a great range of covers and options made especially to suit families, including:

- **Baby Care**

We provide a range of parent-friendly benefits on selected hospital covers, including no excess on your child's hospital admissions up to their third birthday. And, as an added bonus, we'll give you two free books – one for when you are expecting, and one for your child's early years. Subject to eligibility.

- **No gap dental for kids**

Only HBA covers all of the cost of your kids' dental at Members First dentists, right up until they turn 25.* That means you'll benefit from no out-of-pocket costs on more than 250 dental services when you visit a Members First dentist – including check-ups, teeth cleaning, fillings, x-rays and more!

- **Great savings for single parents and families**

Our Single Parent cover option means you can enjoy significant savings on your hospital health cover. While our Family Plus cover options allow you to keep your family covered under one membership for longer and to help you save money.

* On benefits payable. Excludes Orthodontics (normal benefits apply) and hospital treatments. Available on Family Hospital covers with Ultimate, Platinum, Gold and Silver Extras. Waiting periods and normal fund dental rules apply. Child dependants only.

HBA provides affordable, high-quality private health insurance to more than one million Australians.



For more information, call **131 243**,
visit **hba.com.au** or your local branch.