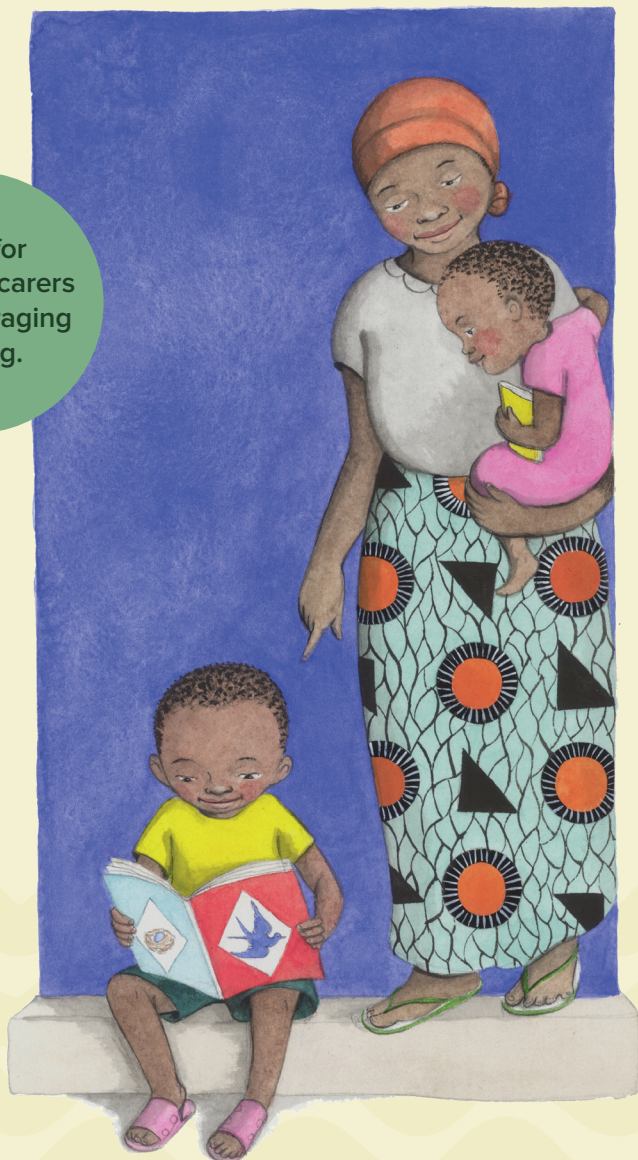


# Enjoying books together at home

Ideas for  
parents & carers  
for encouraging  
reading.



Seeing their  
parents reading  
inspires children  
and creates a  
culture of reading  
at home.



## **Being able to read is a valuable skill.**

As children begin to acquire this new skill opportunities to use books are essential. Even before children can read well, they benefit from looking at the pictures and trying to read the words.

Parents and carers can play an important part in supporting reading by encouraging children to read at home. You can do this by choosing a regular time for your child to read every day, maybe it's when they get home from school, after bathing or before bed. Remember to encourage your child to choose a quiet and well-lit place for reading.

## Caring for books at home

It is important to teach your child the value of books and how to care for them.

Help your child to adopt the habits on this page.

Wash & dry hands before reading.

Keep books away from food & drink.

Show your child how to hold the book and turn the pages gently.

Carry books in a bag. You can make a protective bag from rice sacks or recycled cloth.

Supervise babies when they are handling books.



Reading time can happen in different ways including these four activities.

Try to make it interesting by reading with expression.



**1** You can read a book aloud to your child.

If they aren't reading yet ask them to tell the story using the pictures.

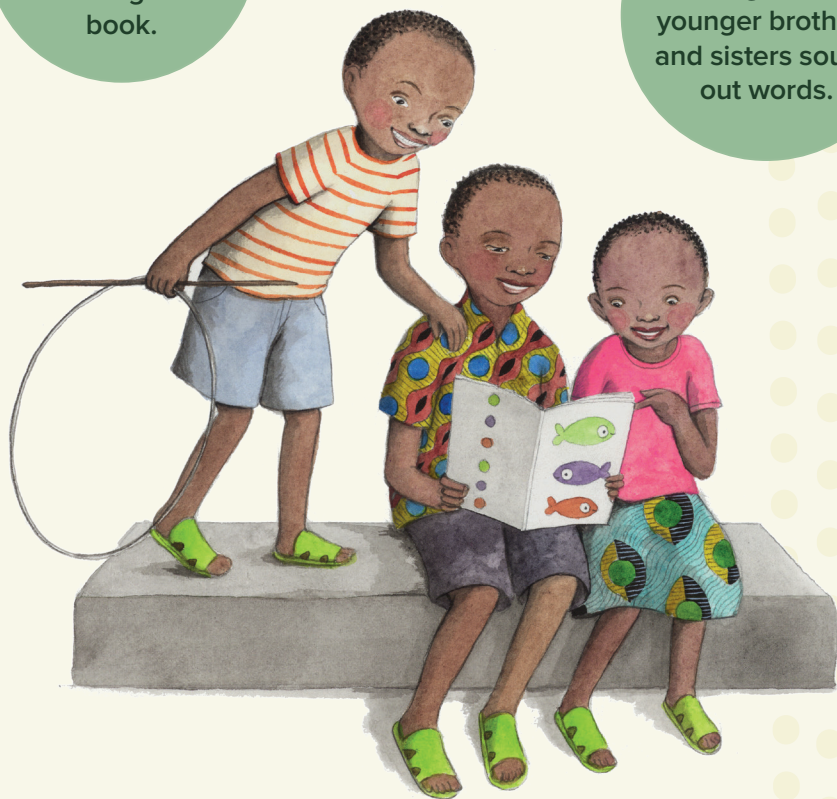


Give lots of positive encouragement and help when needed.

**2** Your child can read to you.

Encourage the children to take turns reading or holding the book.

Ask an older sibling to help younger brothers and sisters sound out words.



**3** Your child can read to their brothers, sisters and friends.

They can read silently or whisper aloud to themselves.



After they have read to themselves, ask them to tell you about the story they read.

**4** Your child can read on their own.

'Enjoying books together at home' has been produced by the Rwandan Children's Book Initiative.

This guide introduces parents to the importance of reading outside of school and has some suggestions for parents and carers of activities that they can use to encourage reading at home.

We hope this guide helps you make our vision of more children reading more and better books a reality.

For more information or to order additional copies email [rwanda-cbi@savethechildren.org](mailto:rwanda-cbi@savethechildren.org)

