



## Sharing stories

This activity is designed to help babies and children to learn about taking turns.

### You will need

A group of parents, babies and children of any age!  
A selection of books

### Start with a wow fact

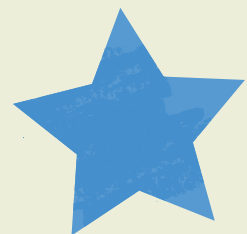
**“Babies and children who have shared books with their parents will know more words by the age of two than those who haven’t.”**

### Remember

When babies and children are having fun it is a great time for learning.  
So remember, you only have to play this for as long as the children are enjoying it.

### How to play

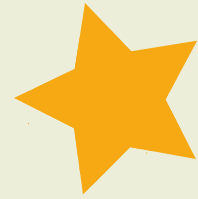
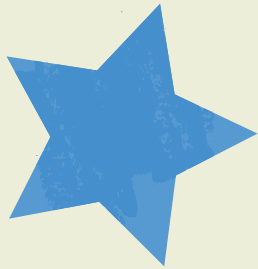
- Put a selection of books out on the floor.
- Ask everyone to sit in a circle with babies on their parent’s knees.
- With the help of the older children, pick a book.
- Now slowly go through the chosen book.
- The important thing isn’t to read the words but to pick out things that are interesting, (e.g. a character or a picture)
- Describe it using lots of simple words (eg ‘red hat’).
- You can also try using funny voices and faces to keep the babies and children interested.



## How does this help?

Sharing books help babies and children learn:

- New words through repetition
- To copy sounds and words
- Listen and concentrate



### It's fun for siblings too!

As much as possible, encourage families to include their older children in playing games together.



## For parents to try themselves

Encourage parents to share books at home.

Remind them, they don't need to read all of the words – just talk about the pictures.

Babies and children are listening and learning all the time – right from their very first day.

**0 to 2 months:** Babies' vision isn't fully developed yet, hearing their parent's voices is what's most important to them

**2 to 4 months:** Babies' vision is getting better. They'll most like bright colours and patterns.

**4 to 8 months:** Babies will be starting to explore using touch. Books with different textures and things they can feel are best. Noisy books with buttons are also great choices!

**8 to 12 months:** Babies will be getting ready to speak now, so sharing books with names will help them to speak their first words.

**Older children:** Follow their lead. It's okay to share the same book over and over again. When they're ready, encourage them to help turn the pages.



Parents and carers can find more activities and resources to try at home by visiting

[www.bit.ly/tinyhappypeople](http://www.bit.ly/tinyhappypeople)  
[Instagram/@thp\\_pilot](https://www.instagram.com/thp_pilot)

