



# Footprints into ECD

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**We all know that reading to our toddler is important but not many understand the reasons and advantages of reading.**

Reading in the early years creates a firm foundation for learning as your child grows older. Developing a love for reading and books is paramount to setting the learning building blocks in place.

### **Giving your child a head start**

Reading to your young child develops a love for knowledge and language. Many studies have shown how reading to your toddlers helps prepare them for pre-school and ultimately for main school in later years.

Reading is used in every subject that your child will eventually undertake, and if a child is battling to study a subject or understand a concept it can often be brought back to their inability to read fluently.

Fluency in reading is developed not learnt. You need to read all the time and encourage them to eventually read to themselves every day, even for 10 minutes.

### **Reading develops and improves language skills**

Speaking in normal language (not baby language) is important and needs to be done as often as possible. The language we use with a young child may be repetitive and simple whereas reading exposes them to words and language structure that normal speaking won't.



## The importance of reading to toddlers



# Footprints into ECD: The importance of reading to toddlers

While they may not be able to understand all the words yet, constant exposure will develop this knowledge.

Reading is a key part to developing language fluency and understanding of how to string words together correctly.

## Reading develops the whole child

Reading doesn't just expose them to words but also stimulates their imagination, senses, visual and auditory processing. While hearing the words they are seeing the picture on the page and imagining themselves in the story.

It assists with their concentration at an early age and teaches them to sit for longer periods of time.



By becoming engaged in the story they will start to sit for lengthier periods and in doing so their concentration time will extend as well.

Your child's emotions will start getting involved, and it will teach them empathy in a way that we can't do personally. They will start to identify with the characters, feel what they feel and by doing so start to understand emotions better and begin to relate to them.

## Reading encourages a thirst for knowledge

By introducing different topics, your child will start naturally wanting to extend the range of their information and needing to hear more about specific topics that interest them. Encourage this by starting with picture books, sticker and activity books and moving onto stories and more specific information books.

## Caring for books

Reading and the love for reading is important, and at the same time it is equally important that your toddler learns how to care for books.

Teach them to always hold a book with two hands that have been washed and are clean. Pages should not be bent or folded over and they should never hold a book by the margin or spine.

Give them a cute bookmark to use or even better give them a template to colour in and decorate. Laminate it and allow them to use it in their book.

**Above all, read, read, read.**

**Children who love reading will love learning.**