EA Sensory Service – Vision Impairment

Reading aloud to a child can be a lot of fun. It also familiarises the child with the language of books and helps develop vocabulary. If your child has a vision impairment, here are some tips that may enrich the experience for you and your child.

1. Choose the right book.

2. Spend time talking about the book before beginning.

3. Take your time.

4. Talk about words and concepts in the book with which your child may not be familiar.

5. Help the child relate the story to their previous experiences.

6. Briefly describe what is happening in the pictures.

7. Let your child guide you through the story.

8. For infants and toddlers, it may be showing them how to hold a book and turn the page. It may be easier to begin with board books.

9. For pre-schoolers, this may mean letting them turn the pages as you briefly describe the pictures and read the story. For their favourite books, encourage them to “read” or tell you about familiar parts of the book.

10. Let your child tell the story.

11. Use vocal expression. Don’t be afraid to sound silly.

12. Describe and model the facial expressions and body language.

13. Ask simple questions that spark responses and foster empathy.

14.Use tactile objects while you are reading – toys, objects found around the house, natural materials found outside, real objects where possible.

15. Act out or retell the story together after you have read it.

16. Read the story repeatedly if your child asks.

17. Most importantly, have fun together!

[Watch this video with 10 tips for reading to your child](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oShBqYxHnP0)