

## Golden Rules

- DO talk to your child about anything and everything as much as you can. Involve him in conversations, ask his opinion and listen to his answers.
- DO try to share a book with your child every day. A cuddle and a book at bedtime or after lunch is a really special time together. There is simply no argument that this makes a massive difference to your child's learning to read at school.
- DON'T focus on trying to teach your child particular reading skills at this stage. He probably isn't ready and you might put him off reading altogether.
- DO involve your child as you read simple print around you. Point out signs and labels and read birthday cards and text messages aloud so that she understands that print carries meaning.
- DON'T push reading on your child if he isn't enjoying it or interested. If he doesn't enjoy 'I spy with my little eye' when he's busy doing something else, or too tired, then leave it.
- DO sing songs and nursery rhymes together as often as possible. As well as building your child's vocabulary, it can help us all get on with controversial tasks, such as putting on our coat or washing our hands! As your child gets older, replace some of the words with different rhymes to keep you both interested and amused.
- DON'T bother buying expensive 'educational' computer games or toys to teach your child their letters at this stage. It won't help them to start reading any sooner. You can simply put an alphabet poster up in your child's room and talk about the first sound at the beginning of each word.