

Playtime with Books

Transforming Effective Early Educational Interventions for Virtual Delivery

Playtime with Books provides online support to help more families to enjoy book sharing together at home.

What is book sharing?

Book sharing is different from reading: it's a way for children and adults to playfully explore picture books together as the basis for conversation and connection.

Children take the lead and parents follow their child's interest, engage them by talking about things that catch their child's attention, and join them in having fun with the book.

How does book sharing support child development?

Interactions between babies, young children, and their parents are vital for early development. Book sharing supports these important interactions.

Research has shown that book sharing has lots of benefits for children's language development, cognitive skills and relationships with their parents or caregivers.



What happens in Playtime with Books?

To create Playtime with Books we worked with academic and other partners to adapt an effective book sharing programme for virtual delivery.

Families receive a set of picture books, online guidance on how to book share with their child, and personalised support from early years practitioners.

Parents can share video clips of their book sharing and receive positive, personalised feedback from practitioners.

Does Playtime with Books work?

Early testing showed that parents enjoy Playtime with Books and local services like delivering the intervention. Using rapid research methods, we used feedback from families and early years practitioners to improve the programme and ensure it works well for their needs.

Building on this work, we collaborated with NESTA using service design approaches and consultation to understand how the programme could be scaled up for widespread delivery.

What next?

Together with Nesta, we are now looking for partners for our next phase of work. If your Local Authority might be interested in helping us to codesign and test the programme check out our Playtime with Books project page to find out more and register your interest.

pedalhub.net/PWB

