



With Learn Laugh Play

10 quick ideas for
home educating families
5 - 7 years

Reading for Fun



For Parents

Trusting that your child will learn to read, make progress in reading and enjoy reading is one of the hardest challenges of home educating a young child. Reading at this age should feel fun, playful and confidence-building but this can be hard to achieve if you are worried about whether you are doing it right! This is just a friendly reminder to trust that you are doing your best and trust the process. A small amount of positive and playful reading based activity regularly is much more impactful than long sessions that feel overwhelming or stressful for a child. If in doubt, Keep it short and fun!

Here are 10 simple activities you can use as and when your child is in the mood. If you are one of the many parents that worry about your child and reading, remember that one day you will look back at these early days and be amazed how far your reader has come!

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Activity 1: Treasure Hunt Words

Write 5-10 simple words on small pieces of paper.
Hide them around the room.

When your child finds one, encourage them to read it aloud and use it in a sentence. They will enjoy this game more if you take a turn too!

Variation: use themed words (for example, animals, space, seaside etc.)

This activity is great because movement + reading builds confidence and makes learning more memorable.

Activity 2: Silly Sentence Builder

Write easy nouns, verbs and adjectives on separate slips of paper.
Let your child pick one from each pile and build a silly sentence.

Example:

The grey cat danced loudly.

This activity helps to reduce any pressure around the concept of reading and builds fluency without any need to write! You could take it in turns to act your sentences out!



Activity 3: Reading With a Torch

Turn the lights down slightly.

Let your child read using a torch.

Reading with a torch instantly makes reading feel exciting and special. Short passages work best.

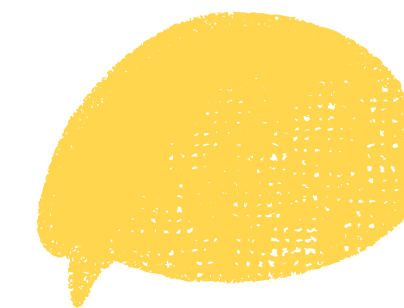
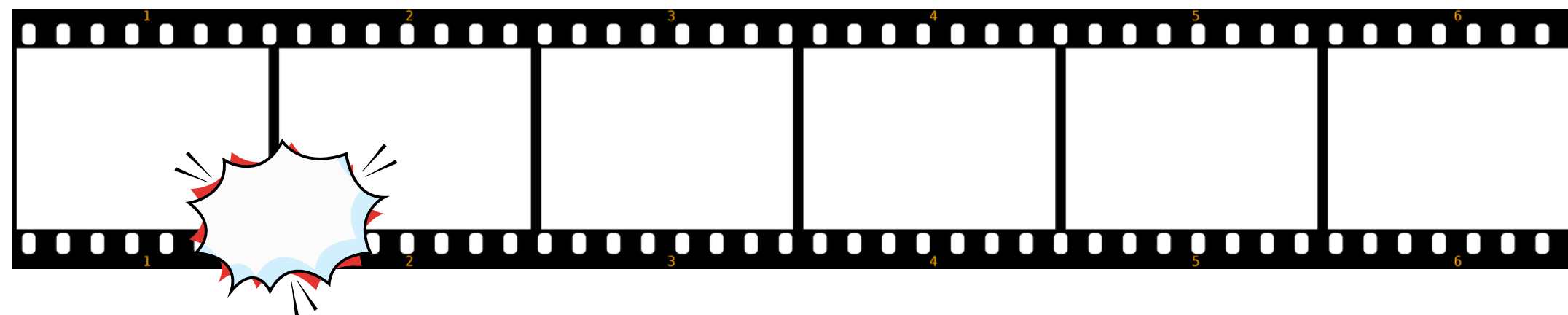


Activity 4: Comic Strip Creator

After reading a short story, ask your child to draw 3-6 boxes showing what happened.

Add simple captions underneath.

This strengthens comprehension and sequencing. You can add the captions or you can do the writing together.





Activity 5: Change the Ending

Read a familiar story.

ASK: Would you like to change the ending?

Let your child invent a new ending. They can tell the story outloud, act it out, draw the ending or write 1-2 sentences.

This sort of activity can help a child to feel in control of the activity, which can be very useful for children who have anxiety around reading and writing. It also develops imagination and understanding of story structure.



Activity 6: Character Detective

Choose a character from your child's favourite book.

Talk about:

- How the character might be feeling at the end of the story?
- Why?
- What might the character do next?

This activity builds inference skills in a gentle way and like Activity 4, gives your child the feeling that they have a voice and that there are no wrong answers.

Activity 7: Reading Picnic

Read outside, under a table, in a den or with a blanket.

Changing location can refresh motivation and change your child's emotional relationship with the process of reading instantly. Just be sure to resist the urge to push too hard. Enjoy the relaxed and magical vibes, even if you do all the reading!



Activity 8: Echo Reading

Read one sentence and then let your child repeat it. Choose rhythmic, rhyming or repetitive sentences that are easy to repeat.

This activity builds confidence and fluency. You can use silly voices, or switch between shouting and whispering. There is much more to reading than recognising letters, so even if your child isn't looking at the page, don't worry!



Activity 9: Word Jar

Write new or fun words on slips of paper and add them to a jar. You and your child can decorate the jar to make it feel special and cut up slips of paper ready to use when a word comes along! Once a week, choose some words and encourage your child to try to read them.

Keep it light and fun.

This activity turns words into something special to look forward to and make games with. You might want to give simple rewards for any words that your child has remembered or read correctly.



Activity 10: Act It Out

Choose a short paragraph or scene from a favourite book and act it out together. Expression improves understanding and confidence. Acting out a scene is very closely aligned with imaginative play and is often something that children love doing with their parent, siblings or friends.



Confidence as a reader grows best when children feel safe and encouraged and relaxed. It is a very natural tendency as a parent to want to see evidence of progress. The best thing to do is take the pressure off and try your best to enjoy reading activities with your child. We hope that you give some of these activities a go and you can add them to your fun reading "tool Kit"!

If you need some support, Learn Laugh Play can help. We offer fun interactive reading and literacy lessons for 5 - 7 year olds designed to build confidence and ensure that children have a positive experience as they learn to read and write.

Classes are priced at £3 a week per family (inc VAT) and include the live lesson or the recording (both!), extra learning activities and worksheets when needed as well as ongoing membership to the class until you choose to stop. If you would like to explore our live lessons and recordings, you can browse them here:

www.lplearningspace.co.uk

