



What can I do?

You'll find some short videos and simple, fun activities that you and your children can do together.

We've broken down the activities by age, but no one knows your child better than you do.

So you could pick and choose the ideas that feel right for you, adapt our suggestions or even come up with your own. And you can use whatever language you feel most comfortable with.

You can find more ideas at:

- [National Literacy Trust family zone](#)
- [BBC Tiny Happy People](#)
- [Libraries from Home](#)

See our [get more information](#) section for more links to fun things to do.

We understand how hard things are at the moment. If you need some further advice on how to manage wider aspects of your child's life, read our guidance on [helping 2 to 4 year olds learn at home during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

Ideas: 2 – 3 year olds

- Do daily tasks with your child. Talk about what you are doing and why you are doing it. When hanging up the washing, you could say 'The

clothes are wet, let's hang them up to dry.' Give them simple tasks like passing you the socks. Praise them for helping.

Other ideas

- You could [make a photo-book](#) of funny, or memorable, family events and talk about it with your child.
- Sing songs together that encourage your child to use their imagination. For example, try singing [The Wheels on the Bus](#) and ask your child to suggest other things on the bus and describe what sound they make.
- Read picture books together. Talk about the things they can see and how we use them. For example, 'A bed is something we sleep in.'
- Use books to talk about your own experiences, and theirs, giving them time to respond. 'Oh look, there is a cow. What sound do cows make?'
- When you're sharing a book with your child, sit close together or even build a den to sit in.
- Talk to your child about what has happened so far in the day – for example, 'We spoke to Grandma on the phone this morning, didn't we?' And talk about what is going to happen next – 'After lunch we'll do the washing up'.
- Put on some music and play 'musical statues'. Dance together then stop the music – see who will be the first person to stand still.

Ideas: 3 – 5 year olds

Watch

Fun activities to add to your routine

- Try sharing familiar books at bedtime. Pause when reading so that your child can join in. Talk about the sounds at the beginning of words and words that start with the same sound (like words beginning with P).
- Encourage your child to recall what has happened in the story. For example, 'Why is bear feeling sad?' Ask them to guess what might happen – 'What should they do next?' – or how the story might end – 'Do you think they're going to find the treasure? Where could it be?'

Other ideas

- Try role-playing games together such as shopping. Set items out on the sofa, give your child a bag and some pretend money. Then switch roles and let them be the shopkeeper.
- Play teddy bears' picnic. Put soft toys in a circle and give your child a few cups and spoons. Give your child a chance to tell you what to do like, 'Stir teddy's tea.' You could chat to them as you are doing actions, for example, 'let's cut the cake in half'.
- Start conversations by using open questions with lots of possible answers, for example, 'What are you going to play with today?'
- Plan a treasure hunt game, where your child has to listen to your instructions to find a clue or an object. For example, 'Try looking behind the sofa'. Help your child look for a specific number of objects and count them together – such as 3 cups, 2 pink socks, 5 pens.
- Help your child make a puppet show about their favourite story using objects around the house.
- Play sorting games together. Collect a range of different household objects and practise sorting them into different groups, perhaps by size or colour. Once you have finished, count all the objects in each group.
- Play a make-believe journey game with your child. Make a car out of a cardboard box that you decorate together, or just grab some cushions, pile in a few teddy bear passengers, and let your child drive you off on an adventure.

Apps for 2 to 5 year olds

We know that phones or tablets are part of many families' everyday lives and kids love to use them, but it's not always easy to know which apps and games can benefit your child's learning.

That is why we have given a quality mark to apps that an independent educational panel believes have good educational value.

Why not try these with your child alongside the other activities listed on this site?



CBeebies Storytime

CBeebies Storytime is filled with free interactive story books and bedtime stories for young children and is a great way to enjoy reading with your little one. The library is always growing, with amazing stories featuring all the CBeebies' favourites.

Age: 0-5

Platform: [Apple](#), [Android](#), [Amazon](#)



CBeebies Playtime Island

CBeebies Playtime Island contains a wide range of fun and educational games to help children understand the world around them and support the development of core skills. Children can play along with all of CBeebies' most popular characters.

Age: 0-5

Platform: [Apple](#), [Android](#), [Amazon](#)



Lingumi - Kids' English

Lingumi provides a course focused on spoken and communicative English. The app provides sets of learning games, speech recognition games and video-based games to help the child grow their grammar and get them speaking their first words.

Age: 2-5

Platform: [Apple](#), [Android](#)



Kaligo

Kaligo is a digital handwriting exercise book designed to teach children how to write using a stylus and tablet, built on an AI machine learning platform. A self-paced approach enables children to progress at their own speed according to their own ability, whilst AI Machine learning provides real-time corrective feedback.

Age: 3-5

Platform: [Apple](#), [Android](#)

The following apps contain phonics content and therefore are only intended for use with school-aged children. Used with your child, they may be a way to support the phonics they are already learning at school, however, you should check with your child's class teacher that the approaches used in the apps align with your school's teaching methods before using at home.

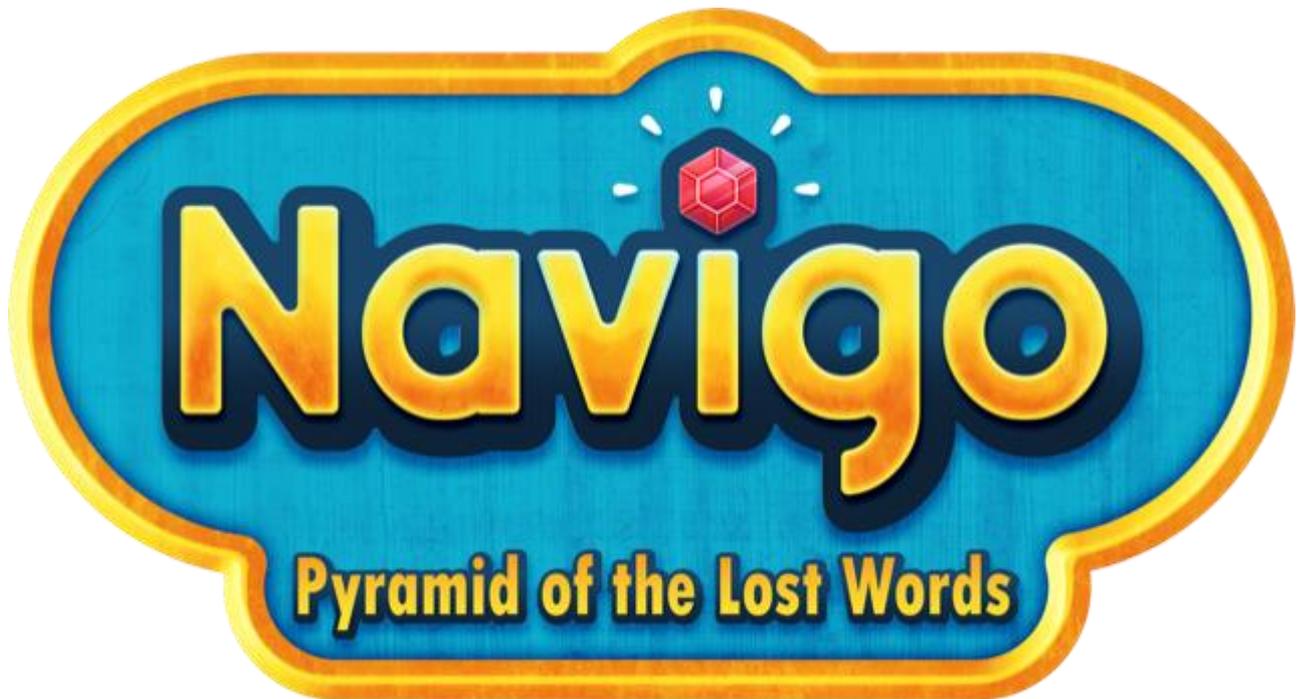
TEACH YOUR MONSTER TO READ

Teach Your Monster to Read

Teach Your Monster to Read is a phonics and reading game that's helped children learn to read. The app covers the first two years of learning to read, from matching letters and sounds to enjoying small books.

Age: school-aged children

Platform: [Apple](#), [Android](#), [Amazon](#)



Navigo

The Navigo app aims to support beginner readers to develop reading skills (accuracy, fluency and comprehension) through engaging with the personalised content and activities.

Age: school-aged children

Platform: [Android](#)



Phonics Hero

Phonics Hero teaches children to read and spell with systematic synthetic phonics. The app includes over 850 fun and varied games. Using a step-by-step approach, children learn the 44 sounds, the reading and spelling of words, and how to conquer sentences.

Age: school-aged children

Platform: [Apple](#), [Android](#)

The following app is intended for use with school-aged children. A child could use this app for further independent reading once they have successfully completed their school's phonics programme. If you are

unsure when this is, we recommend that you discuss the matter with your child's class teacher before using the app with your child.

Fonetti

EMPOWERED BY **auris**



Fonetti

Fonetti is a Listening Bookshop™ that provides young children with a patient, comforting listening ear to help in the learning-to-read journey, but also with the added benefit of tracking progress, identifying reading challenges, and highlighting to their adult carers where the most support is needed.

Age: school-aged children

Platform: [Apple](#)

The Department for Education is not the creator, owner, editor, manager or provider of the apps listed. The app providers are neither affiliates, associates nor partners of the Hungry Little Minds campaign, the content of this website is solely the property of the Department of Education and does not necessarily reflect the views or position of any of the providers listed.

[Early years apps pilot: home learning environment legal disclaimer.](#)

More information on apps

Choosing an app for your child – the FEED test

There are lots of apps that say they are ‘educational’, but you’ll want to reassure yourself that’s the case and that they are right for your child. The FEED check may help.

Fun – Will your child enjoy the app? Will it keep their attention?

Educational – Is there a clear educational aim? Do you know what your child will learn? Will it keep them learning and allow them to progress?

Engaging – Will it help your child if they get stuck? Will it give them feedback and let them know when they’ve got challenges right?

Design – Is it attractive and easy to use? Is it inclusive and does it avoid gender and racial stereotypes? Can an adult change the settings? Is it safe, with links to the internet and adverts protected behind a parental gate?

Find more information on how to support your child’s learning through apps and get advice on screen time:

- [early years apps parent guidance](#)
- guidance from the [UK Chief Medical Officer on screen time based activities](#)

Get more information

You can find out more information and get more ideas and activities to do with your child from the following websites:

- [Small Talk](#) – ideas and activities from the National Literacy Trust.
- [I CAN](#) – for more information about children’s communication.
- [A Better Start](#) – for more information about building young brains.
- [NSPCC](#) provides free ‘brain-building tips’ for children.
- [Bilingualism Matters](#) provides information about children learning more than one language.
- [Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists](#) can provide support if you’re worried about your child’s speech and language development.

Online educational resources

We have recently brought together an initial list of online educational resources to support children at home during the coronavirus outbreak. This list is not exhaustive and there are many other resources available.

English

- [Audible](#) – all children’s audiobooks are available for free while schools are closed
- [Authorfy](#) – access to masterclasses on texts from a range of authors, including videos from the authors and activities linked to novels, registration required
- [BookTrust](#) – a site with recommended booklists, categorised by age range and topic, including fiction and non-fiction, family activities are included in the ‘home time’ section
- [Classroom Secrets](#) – downloadable resource packs which cover a range of subjects, including reading and writing
- [Love Reading 4 Kids](#) – a site with recommended booklists, categorised by age range and topic, covering fiction and non-fiction
- [Purple Mash](#) – free during the school closure period, each week, a selection of daily activities is produced on different subjects, including comprehension and grammar, registration required
- [Storytime with Nick](#) – films of well-loved stories read by Nick Cannon, a trained actor, teacher and trainer
- [The Children’s Poetry Archive](#) – an archive of spoken poetry recordings, children can listen to poems read out loud

Maths

- [Mathematics Mastery](#) – downloadable guidance and resource packs for parents and pupils
- [Nrich](#) – a range of activities, some are interactive and some are to be completed offline – activities are categorised by age range
- [Numberblocks](#) – videos for numeracy development designed for children aged 0 to 6 – there are fun activities that can be applied to everyday life and play
- [Top Marks](#) – a range of interactive maths games categorised by age group
- [White Rose Maths \(home learning\)](#) – presentations and downloadable workbooks which are easy to use for parents, new material is being released each week

Physical activity

- [Boogie Bebies](#) – videos that get younger children up and dancing with CBeebies presenters

- [Disney 10 minute shakeups](#) – 10-minute activities based on Disney films that count towards a child's 60 active minutes per day

Mental wellbeing

- [Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families](#) – wellbeing advice for all those supporting children and young people
- [British Psychological Society \(BPS\)](#) – advice about talking to children about coronavirus
- [Children's Commissioner](#) – a downloadable guide for children about coronavirus
- [MindEd](#) – an educational resource for all adults on children mental health, registration increases functionality but not necessary
- [The Child Bereavement Network](#) – advice on supporting grieving children during the coronavirus outbreak