Sharing Stories Together
Helping your child to develop a love of reading and books
Sharing Stories Together

This booklet was produced by the Aga Khan Foundation as part of its series of publications on “Reading for Children”. The concept and title were adapted from a booklet originally published in 2003 by the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education in London.

The Aga Khan Foundation is an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network.
Reading and telling stories together is fun!

You can help your child’s development in talking and reading by sharing stories together.
This is what you can do.

Read or tell stories to your child as often as you can.
There are a lot of different ways of and places for enjoying a book together.
Whether you are telling stories or reading a book, the most important thing is to make it fun.

Use different voices for the different characters, and use facial expressions.
Simply reading to your child, rather than expecting him or her to read

...will encourage a love of reading and books.
When your child enjoys a story, you can read or tell it again,
and again,
Whenever possible,

read or tell stories with your child in a language that you know very well.
If the book is written in a language that you do not read,

you can always look at and talk about the pictures together.
It will help your child at any age

...if you find the time to read with him or her.
Everyone is busy, but spending even 10 minutes a day sharing books will help your child become...

...a confident reader and learner.
On the farm there was...

a horse!

Children know their favourite stories by heart and like to tell the story with you.
Once upon a time...

They remember their favourite books and soon begin to read and tell the stories by themselves.
Children like being told stories by lots of different people, old and young.

Brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, and grandparents can share stories with your child.
When older children read to their little brothers and sisters

...they become better readers.
What is that?  Who can guess?

Sharing stories can be a family event.
With everyone involved, children feel secure and loved and the whole family feels good.
Beginning to read should be easy and fun. Talking about the book helps.

Let children join in and let them read to you when they want to.
If they ask you what the words on the page say, tell them.

It doesn’t matter if they cannot read the words themselves.
Sharing stories helps your child:

Learn to read easily

Be ready for and do well in school

Build confidence

Communicate well

Get along with others
The Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) is a group of development agencies with mandates that include the environment, health, education, architecture, culture, microfinance, rural development, disaster reduction, the promotion of private-sector enterprise and the revitalisation of historic cities. AKDN agencies conduct their programmes without regard to faith, origin or gender and have decades of experience in integrating economic, social and cultural development.

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For more information, please visit the website: www.akdn.org

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