



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION

# 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,



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.

And then what happened?



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.

**The Aga Khan Foundation (AKF)** is part of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN). Founded and guided by His Highness the Aga Khan, the AKDN brings together a number of international development agencies, institutions and programmes whose mandates range from the social sector and culture to architecture and the promotion of private-sector enterprise. AKF works primarily in the poorest parts of South and Central Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East and aims to improve living conditions and opportunities (often in remote marginalised areas), and empower communities to respond to the challenges of social, economic and cultural change. AKF focuses on rural development, early childhood development, education, health, environment and the strengthening of civil society. The goal of **AKF's education programme** is to ensure that children and young people are equipped with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to help them interact effectively with the world and be contributing members of society. AKF emphasises building an inclusive and relevant ladder of education opportunities beginning from early childhood and extending through to secondary. Support to selected tertiary institutions promotes professional development of educators and fosters leadership across all levels of education reinforcing school and community-level efforts.

For more information, please visit the website: [www.akdn.org](http://www.akdn.org)

Aga Khan Foundation  
Case Postale 2369  
1211 Geneva 2  
Switzerland  
Tel. +41 22 909 7200  
Fax +41 22 909 7291  
Email: [akf@akdn.org](mailto:akf@akdn.org)

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