

# RECRUITING PARENTS FOR BOOK-SHARING

## Key Points

### What is book-sharing?

We use the name "book-sharing" to refer to a specific way of sharing a book with a child. The focus is on pictures not on words. The exploration is led by the child. The parent asks questions and guides conversation, praising the child and encouraging them to talk about different parts of the pictures and story. Book-sharing gets parents and children to discuss the book.



### Why wordless picture books?

When there are no words, the child can become more involved in the book and can play an interactive part in telling the story. A wordless picture book can be shared with a child of any age, in any language, even if the adult is not very comfortable reading.

### What are the benefits of book-sharing?

Research shows that book-sharing improves children's language, cognitive and socio-emotional development. This means improved vocabulary and ability to talk things. It means better attention and concentration and ability to solve problems. It means better socialising with other people and better recognising and managing emotions.

Book-sharing is a particularly good way for parent and child to bond because it encourages closeness and conversation.





## What age child will benefit?

Wordless picture books can be shared with children of any age. Book-sharing can start with children as young as 10 months and can benefit children up to 6 years old.

## How does parent training work?

**Sessions:** Book-sharing training for parents involves 8 one and a half hour sessions over 8 weeks.

**Practice:** Parents bring their children to the sessions to practice book-sharing. Books also get sent home for parents to practice book-sharing in between sessions.

**No cost:** Book-sharing training is free to parents.



## How much time does book-sharing take?

After training, parents are encouraged to spend at least 10 minutes sharing a book with their child every day.



## Where do the books come from?

The Mikhulu Trust has provides books to use during training. At the end of the training, families receive books to use at home. Parents can also get books from local libraries.

## Questions and concerns

Does the parent have any questions or concerns about book-sharing or the training programme? Listen carefully and answer sympathetically. Emphasize that book-sharing aims to prepare children for school. Talk about other parents' experiences.