



::At home reading:: Supporting therapy goal tips with **Adventures of Koko-possum & Marma-llama**



Firstly, know that the simple act of snuggling with your child even for 5mins has a positive impact on oxytocin levels alone - the 'feel good' hormones. It is not necessary to read word for word, or read every page with your child. What is most important is to encourage engagement with the story at the level they are at. Ask your child's therapist for specific examples relating to their unique needs.

Here are 6 tips to enjoy a snuggle with your child, while potentially working towards therapy goals:

- 1** Have your child search for the cheeky hiding cockatoo/fantail on each page.
This can help to increase engagement and focus.
- 2** Ask questions from the story. For example, asking '**wh**' questions such as '**who**' was in the story,, '**what** were they doing', "**where** were they?"
This can help develop children's verbal reasoning and abstract language capabilities.
- 3** Increase fun by asking follow up questions "what sound does a dog/bird make?"
Making reading enjoyable can create positive association for future learning.
- 4** After reading "And what did they find?", ask your child what THEY think might be found? ie a dog? a tree? Lollypop?
This can assist with developing prediction skills.
- 5** Ask your child what animals they remember? Or which ones they like?
You can help prompt and if language is still developing, encourage them to point ... and say the name aloud for them.
This can assist with memory/ recall and identifying/naming objects.
- 6** Engage with the multi-sensory elements in the stories
ie" what else is "stinky", what else is "squishy", what else is "wiggly"?"
This can assist with increasing vocabulary to express sensory experiences.

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