



## Children Learn Words When They Listen to Stories

Stories are fun, but they are also a great way to learn new words, which in turn will help them in school. When listening to audiobooks and podcasts, children hear lots of new words, including harder words than they are able to read.

It's great for children to listen to audiobooks on their own but it's even better to listen to them together and share your enjoyment. Long car journeys are the perfect time to share a story. Shared earphones can also work on a train. Talk about what is happening. Stop once in a while and predict what might happen next. If you miss a bit, ask your child to explain. If you are at home, draw pictures of what you think characters and places might look like. Discuss similarities and differences. Act out exciting parts.

Choose a word that you heard in the audiobook. Talk about its meaning, write it down and stick it somewhere like the fridge. Challenge everyone in the family to use and listen out for it. At the end of the day say it in a new sentence.

Here are some options for audiobooks, but there are many more.

**Borrowbox:** Families can access audiobooks from libraries for free. Often you never need to even go to a library, it can all be done on-line. Download the 'Borrowbox' app to download eBooks and audiobooks. You still need your library card number and your local library needs to be signed up to the scheme.

**SEN charities:** There are charities that offer a good range of audiobooks for children with some additional need. You do not need to provide evidence of this need, just state what the difficulty is. These services charge.

[www.calibre.org.uk](http://www.calibre.org.uk)

[www.listening-books.org.uk](http://www.listening-books.org.uk)

**LibriVox** provides free downloads of out of copyright books such as *Heidi*, *Black Beauty* and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. These are read by volunteers.

[www.librivox.org.uk](http://www.librivox.org.uk)