

TIPPY'S READERS GUIDE

Pre conversation tips



The goal of Weaverbirds personalised stories is to provide a starting point for creating a coherent narrative of a young person's journey through some of the more difficult aspects of life. The stories place the child in the context of their family, help them sequence and process events, and assist them to recognise and name their emotional response.

BEFORE CREATING YOUR STORY

- You may consider whether you would you like to prepare the story and then share it with your child or design it with the child, allowing them to 'write their own story' as part of the process.

BEFORE READING WITH YOUR CHILD

- Read the story first yourself, take note of any parts of the story which may be overwhelming, confronting or confusing for your child.
- Think ahead of any questions your child may ask, prepare answers you and other family members are comfortable with.
- Consider who your child might share their story with and prepare them so that they are not taken by surprise and can provide support.
- Provide **factual information** and give your child space to work through their own feelings and thoughts.
- Where possible give the most simplistic and age appropriate version of the truth as it is usually the most therapeutically appropriate.
- Familiarise yourself with the activities in your story and those on our [website](#). These may help increase important skills for your child, such as recognising body clues and labelling emotions. If these are skills your child struggles with you may choose to do our website activities before completing the activities in your Weaverbirds book.
- Some situations may be upsetting to your child. If you are finding it difficult to see your child in distress, please consider seeking support from a Mental Health professional for further guidance.

WHEN READING WITH YOUR CHILD

- Look at the cover and read the title, ask your child what they are expecting to find in the book.
- You may like to introduce 'Tippy' the Weaverbird character who has woven your child's personalised story.

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- During reading be guided by your child, allowing them to take the time they need to ask questions, make comments and complete activities. These are all important aspects of thinking, learning and processing information.
- Be patient if your child is overwhelmed and not ready to keep reading, Pop the book down and invite your child to tell you when they are ready to read it again.
- Talk about the book after reading it to ensure your child has understood key themes and concepts. Ask open ended questions to help engage two way conversation.
- Refer to the resources section to check for any additional tips that may refer to your story's topic, such as other common misconceptions a child may have.
- Print out the associated resources, keeping them together with your story and a set of colouring pencils, which you can pull out any time you read your Weaverbird Story.

AFTER READING YOUR STORY

- Check out our [Top Tips for Parents](#) on things you can do to support your child through your current situation.