

Things to Do with Books

Often it is tempting just to use books to read. These suggestions outline other activities to encourage your child's speech and language skills.

- ⇒ **Tell the story** from the pictures rather than just reading the words.
- ⇒ Encourage your child to retell the story, either with or without the pictures. Do not pressure them to do this as they may not be ready or may just want to listen to you.
- ⇒ **Name the pictures** that your child looks at or points to (rather than asking them to name pictures for you).
- ⇒ If your child talks about a picture, repeat back what they say **adding a word** e.g. if they say 'car' you might say 'mummy's car'.



For older children

- ⇒ Encourage your child to think about the sequence of the story i.e. what happened at the beginning? In the middle? At the end?
- ⇒ Draw pictures from the book. Ask your child to put them in the right order.
- ⇒ Ask questions during the story: What will happen next? What would have happened if...?
- ⇒ You could take keywords from the story and ask your child to make up sentences including these words.
- ⇒ Write out sentences from the story and cut them up into individual words. Ask your child to rearrange the words to form a sentence.
- ⇒ Give your child incomplete sentences about the story for your child to complete e.g. Elmer was sad because... or The caterpillar was hungry so...
- ⇒ Increase your child's vocabulary about books by talking about the different parts e.g. cover, pages, title, and author.
- ⇒ Act out the story. You and your child could take different roles.
- ⇒ Craft activities about the book will encourage further discussion e.g. drawing a picture, making a model or collage.
- ⇒ Talk about the feelings of the characters in the story. How would your child feel if the same thing happened to them?
- ⇒ Try to encourage your child to summarise the story into one or two sentences.
- ⇒ Make predictions about what you think might happen next. Discuss what might be a different ending to the story.
- ⇒ Look out for words that rhyme when you're reading the story e.g. mat and cat. Can your child think of any other words to rhyme with mat or other words that begin with the same letter?
- ⇒ Look out for long and short words. Work out together how many syllables words have in helicopter = 4 beats/syllables. Clapping the word's rhythm might help.

