

Becoming a Super Storyteller

Understanding and telling stories is an important skill for children to learn. Below are some tips to help you and your child to become Super Storytellers!

Reading a book

There's lots of things you can do to make reading stories more fun and boost your child's language development. Here are some top tips:

- Go through the story slowly, giving time for your child to process each page and allowing them to ask questions or comment if they want to
- Recap what's happened so far and add one bit at a time
- Make the story interactive, e.g. act out parts together, use props and real-life objects, create an action
- If your child is already able to answer simple 'wh' questions (see separate leaflet) you can support them to develop these skills further by asking:
 - What happened?
 - What do you think will happen next?
 - How does the character feel? What is the character thinking/saying?
 - What does X mean? (defining a word)

Creating your own story

Collect a range of toys and everyday objects or use some pictures or photos. Create your story using the following elements as a guide:

When? Who? Where? What happened? How did they feel? What happened at the end?

Take it in turns to pick an object or picture. The adult can start the sentence e.g. 'The rabbit fell down a...' or 'It was a dark stormy...'. Or you could ask questions and prompt your child to respond e.g. 'who was there?' 'what happened?'

The adult should stop regularly to go through the story so far and help structure it. Ensure to model back sentences in the correct manner if the child's grammar or sentence structure is incorrect.

Extend the story by asking the child to include the following for each section:

- 'who' – adjectives to describe the character
- 'where' – adjectives to describe the place
- 'what happened' – include other characters, what did they say and think
- 'how did they feel' – why did they feel this way, can they use more than one feeling
- 'the end' – what happened, what happened after that...
- Once each part has been chosen and discussed, then encourage the child to re-tell the full story with your support.