

Dialogic Book Talk 3-5years

How to use books to support your child to become 'ready to read' – a story within a story.

These instructions are specific to children who are aged 3-4 years old but can be adapted to younger children by changing the language you use. Please contact us if you would like further information.

You will need:

- A favourite book, ideally a story book that they know or are familiar with
- Or any available book, comic, magazine or even a toy catalogue will do.

The activity:

- start with using 'the language of books' to help your child to build the relevant vocabulary associated with books and reading, emphasising key words such as: *'let's start at the beginning; let's go to the front of the book; I wonder what the 'title' of this book is? ...I wonder who the 'author' is?'*
- Encourage your child to turn the pages 'one at a time' and go from left to right as books in English are written this way.
- Now for the exciting part – forget about the words that are written in the story. Just go off

pictures and see what happens. You should ask questions relating to the pictures – so things like: *'Can you see the little boy with the blue jumper? (Encourage your child to point to the boy) What do you think he's doing? Where has he been? Who is he with?'*

- If it's a story you know well, you could encourage some 'recall and retell' from your child: *What would you do if... What do you think would happen if...?*

TOP TIP:

A love for books and the enjoyment of reading is something that children learn from spending time with you, without interruptions. It's an activity you can both enjoy together.



Enrich vocabulary development with related words such as:

Title	Beginning	Words	Cover
Author	Middle	Numbers	Illustration
Character	End	Pages	

How this supports knowledge & development:

Engaging your child in this process, known as dialogic book talk, enables them to:

- Think critically about a story and imagine different scenarios using their experience of life and think creatively
- Learn and use new words to extend their vocabulary and more importantly, to use language for thinking to explain what they see and what they feel
- Develop their comprehension (understanding of the story) so that they can explore their thinking and develop their imagination
- Develop a love of storytelling, as well as a love of books
- Enjoy being with you and spending time talking with you and exploring their thoughts and ideas – books and talking together become a source of real enjoyment because you're sharing special time together

Keeping Everyone Safe

Be mindful of sharp edges of the pages



What would the front cover of your own book look like?

