

Other things to try: 2a

Developing understanding of single words

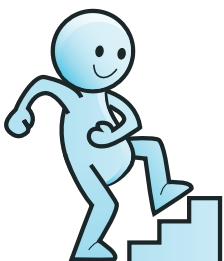


Why is this important?

Sharing books with a child has many benefits including developing shared attention, developing vocabulary and understanding of single words, relating objects to the pictures and learning about the world. Books can also help prepare a child for school.

What to do

- Gather together a few books. These can be story books or picture books.
- You don't have to read the story in a book.
- Look at the pictures with the child.
- Point to and talk about what is happening in the pictures.
- Use language appropriate to the child's needs (e.g. if the child only understands a few words, use single words).
- Use lots of repetition and pause after each word to give the child a chance to respond.
- If the child attempts to copy the words, give lots of praise.
- Talk about objects (e.g. bike, tree) as well as actions (e.g. jumping, sitting).



Step up

- As the child begins to understand more words, ask him/her to find an object in the picture. Take it in turns.

Step down

- Use gestures/signs alongside the names of things.
- Always make sure the child is looking at what you are talking about (e.g. if a child is looking at the ducks on a pond and you say 'boy swing', he/she will find it more difficult to link the words and pictures together).
- If the child finds it difficult, guide his/her hand to the right place in the picture.

