

Top Tips: Storytelling at Home

- **Enjoy the story!**

The most important way to engage your child in Reading Comprehension is to make this time as motivating as possible.

- **Minimise distractions** as much as possible so that the most exciting choice in the room is the story!

- **Choose optimum times** where your child is in the mood for reading, every child is different so pick the time best for them.

- A great way for sharing enjoyment is by **building suspension** and letting your child finish your sentence or joining them in reading a key word (e.g. the fox went...SPLASH!)

- **Go at your child's pace.**

Children with speech, language and communication difficulties can have challenges processing spoken and written

- information. If you are reading the story, use a slower pace and encourage your child to turn the page when they are ready (try 10 seconds for each piece of information).

- **Comment on the story**

We don't just have to ask questions to develop comprehension, by commenting on the pictures and story, you can

- Encourage your child to **build links**. For example, "I wonder if the fox will catch the chicken...", "The lady looks sad".

- **Match questions to your child's level of understanding**

Questions can be concrete and simple 'who', 'what', 'where' relating to the 'here and now' and can also be abstract, requiring higher level thinking skills e.g. 'why', 'how'. If you are unsure about your child's level of understanding, liaise with your class speech and language therapist who will advise you.

- **Create a space for story telling** or use objects of reference to show your child it's time for a story (e.g. this could be a story telling den, a special hat or item of clothing or a corner of the sofa). Students really benefit from items and places which tell them what the activity will be.