

No-word Books

How can we 'read' a book with no words?

No-word books are designed to teach a child to:-

- * examine pictures in detail
- * interpret and describe illustrations
- * become accustomed to using the character names of the series
- * develop the vocabulary needed to tell these stories
- * use their imagination to add details and dialogue to the story
- * practise story-telling language – One day..., And then...
- * discuss a story and relate it to a familiar situation
- * answer questions about the pictures

How can parents help?

You can:-

- * be excited about the book
- * use the cover to guess what the story will be about
- * check that your child remembers the names of the children or, if it's not a known scheme book, make them up.
- * look through the pictures together
- * tell the story *to* your child in the language we use for stories – One morning, Kipper was complaining that dad was ... It was Kipper's first day at school and he was so scared that he
- * point out amusing or interesting details in the pictures
- * ask questions which require more than yes or no answers – What do you think Biff is saying? How do you think Chip is feeling? What's happened to the toothpaste?
- * encourage your child to tell you the story – at first s/he may just describe or name items in the picture but if you respond with praise and repeat what s/he said but in full sentences, s/he will gradually over the next few weeks become an expert story teller

How does this help my child to read?

There are many 'clues' which children use to read – sight words (instantly recognisable frequently-used words being taught in class at the moment), letter sounds, semantics, syntax and picture clues. All reading schemes use picture clues extensively so it is important that children learn to use them. They enable children to make sensible guesses at unknown words which, through frequent repetition in the text, eventually become sight words.

Being familiar with the language of books also helps children to predict (make sensible guesses) at which word will come next in a story.

Identifying the characters easily will help children as they try to learn to read the names and acquiring more precise oral vocabulary will be of great help when they begin to read.

While this applies to all children, it is especially important for those who do not speak English as their first language.

When will my child get a ‘real’ book?

When s/he is ready, can say most of their letter sounds, knows enough Sight Words to be able to read a simple book easily and enjoy doing so and is acquiring more Sight words quickly enough to ensure progress. Your child’s teacher is trained to judge when to start books with words – there is no hurry!

Please send the books to school every day in case we have time to work with your child individually