

Helping your child to read at home

Discussion books

Discussion books are wordless books that tell a story through pictures alone. They help children to develop speaking and listening skills through creating and telling stories.

They engage children in critical thinking, prediction and story telling.



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Although these books have no words they are an important introduction into reading. They help children to develop a richer vocabulary and a greater understanding of story structure.

1. Begin by looking at the cover, What can you see? What clues about the story does the illustration show?
2. Read the title. Does the title give you any ideas for what the story might be about? Make predictions about the story based on the cover and title.
3. Take a picture walk. Look through the pages of the book with the sole purpose of enjoying the pictures. Talk about anything that captures their attention.

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4. 'Read the story together. You might choose to go first and invite your child to add the story as you go.
5. Encourage your child to take a turn telling their own version of the story.

Questions you could ask

- ▶ *What do you notice?*
- ▶ *What do you think is happening?*
- ▶ *What is your favourite illustration?*
- ▶ *Do you have a favourite part of the story?*
- ▶ *How is your favourite character?*
- ▶ *Can you tell me about a time when you have felt like the main character?*

