



Helping your child at home with reading - EYFS

Questions to ask your child when reading - Early Years

Before reading the book:

- Can you point to the title? or What is this? (pointing to the title)
- What do you think this story will be about? What might happen in the story?
- Who is in the story? During the reading of the book:
- What is happening here? • What is _____ doing?
- What might happen next?
- How do you think the story might end?
- Is _____ friendly/ mean/ nice...?
- What does _____ mean? (To check understanding of a word)

At the end of the book:

- Did you like this book? Why?
- What was your favourite part? Why?
- Which character did you like the best? Why?
- Why did that character do ... (give a situation/ event from the story)?
- What happened in the story?

Questions to ask your child when reading wordless books - Early Years

- Recognise that there are no "right" or "wrong" ways to read a wordless book. One of the wonderful benefits of using wordless books is how each child creates his own story (or stories!) from the same pictures.
- Spend time looking at the cover and talking about the book's title. Based on those two things, make a few predictions about the story.
- Take a "picture walk" through the pages of the book. Enjoy the illustrations, which are often rich with detail. Look carefully at the expressions on characters' faces, the setting and the use of colour. Talk to each other about what you see. These conversations will enrich the storytelling.
- Enjoy the pictures and point out a few things, but don't worry too much about telling a story yet. Just enjoy the pictures and get a sense of what the book is about.
- Go back through the book a second time and get ready for some great storytelling! Consider going first and acting as a model for your child. Have characters use different voices, add sound effects and use interesting words in your version of the book.

- Encourage your child to "read" you the book with his story. Focus on the words your child uses when he tells the story. Help your child expand his sentences or thoughts by encouraging him to add information from the illustration's details. One way to encourage more details is by asking "W" questions: Who? Where? When? Why?
- Finish your wordless book sharing by asking a few simple questions: What pictures helped you tell the story? What was your favourite part of your story? Have you had an experience like the one in your story?

Sharing wordless books is a terrific way to build important literacy skills, including listening skills, vocabulary, comprehension — and an increased awareness of how stories are "built," as the storyteller often uses a beginning, middle, end format. For a book with few words, you'll be surprised at all the talking you will do, and all the fun you'll have!