

READING WITH YOUR CHILD

GET COMFORTABLE - NO DISTRACTIONS

Using Wordless Picture Books

How to use wordless picture books with your child to help develop their reading and comprehension skills.

Introduce New Vocabulary

Tell the story which accompanies the pictures in your own words. This is an effective way of introducing new vocabulary to your child. As well as explaining the action in the picture, don't forget to also describe what else you see in the picture, using as many detailed words as possible.



Encourage Storytelling

Ask your **child** to tell the story in their **own words** based on the pictures on each page. Help them to develop their storytelling skills by prompting them to include details about the **setting**, descriptions of **characters**, and key elements of the **plot**, including the problem which arises and its resolution.

Promote creativity and imagination by **allowing your child to embellish the story**. Suggest that they add **dialogue** to the storyline.

You could help your child to develop this skill by narrating the beginning and middle of the wordless picture book yourself and then asking your child to narrate the ending.

Learn About Story Structure and Sequencing

Wordless picture books are a great way of teaching your child about basic story structure and the sequencing of events in a story. Once your child has told the story in their own words, ask them to summarise what happened in the **beginning**, **middle** and the **end**. This will start to give them an understanding of basic story structure.

Then talk about the different elements of the plot and the sequence of these events in the story. Being able to summarise a story in this way helps to develop comprehension skills.

You can extend this by asking them to make up a completely new ending or asking what they think will happen after the story ends.

Practice Comprehension Skills

Encourage your child to **predict** what will happen next, make **connections between the story and their own lives**, discuss **what the characters may be thinking or feeling** and ponder the overall message of the story.

If your child is hesitant, start by modelling what you are talking about. Describe what you think will happen next or what certain parts of the story remind you of. Your child should soon get the idea and will hopefully join in.



The next step - pictures with sentences

Look at the **front cover**. What can they see? What do they think the story will be about? Read the title on the cover and on the title page.

Look through the book together and talk about the story from the pictures.

Tell the child names of any characters and other words that cannot be segmented into sounds.

Ask them to turn to the beginning of the book and begin reading.

They should turn the pages as they read. Support if needed (e.g. if they turn two pages).

Your child should put their reading finger under the words as they say the words.



- If they come to a word they don't know they can
- look at the letters, say the sounds and blend the sounds together OR
 - look at the first letter, say the sound and cross check with the picture.

Let's read it again!

Ask them to read the story through a second time.

Your child should be able to read the story with more fluency.

At the end of the story ask them to talk about what happened in the story:-

- "What happened at the beginning?"
- "What happened next/after that/at the end?"

Ask some questions about the story.

e.g. "What colour was the ____?" "Where did the ____ go?"

"Who went _____?" "Why did the (character) _____?"

"How did the (character) feel when _____?"

Returning to the text

"Can you show me the page where _____?"

"Can you find the word that tells us _____?"

"Can you think of another word that means the same as _____?"

"Did you enjoy the story? Which part did you like best/Why didn't you like it?"

Relate the story to the child's own experience

Have you ever _____? Do you remember when we _____? Would you like to _____? Can you think of another story with a _____?