

Now we've read the book, what's next?

Read the book many times. Children love to hear stories over again and they will pick up on different parts of the story and pictures through repeated readings.

Choose interesting aspects of the book and make comments.

- These comments could be about the pictures, eg. *"Look at that tiny dress on the washing line. I think it must be a really small animal that would fit in this dress. I don't think an elephant would fit in that dress!"*
- Comments can relate to the child's experiences, eg. *"Look at Dad's stripy jumper. You have stripy jumper too, the one with the red and yellow stripes."*
- Comments can also serve to teach word meanings, eg. *"Mum really likes spots. See the round circles on her pants. Lots of circles together are called spots."*
- Use comments to expand what a child has said. If your child has said "Teddy sleep", you might add more to the sentence, eg. *"Yes teddy was tired so he went to sleep."*
By doing this you add the small grammatical words into the sentence and add a new piece of information.

Questions are another way to engage children with stories.

- Simple questions involve naming items, places or actions, eg. *"What is this?"* *What is she doing?*
- Open-ended questions encourage longer answers, eg. *"Tell me what is happening?"* or *"What do you see here?"*
- Questions that involve thinking may ask for your child's opinion on what happened in the book, eg. *"What do you think about*
Or may include thinking about answers to problems, eg. *"What did he do when (something) happened?"*

It is important to follow the child's interest, so if they point or talk about a picture, follow it up immediately by asking a question or offering a comment to prompt more talk.

For further information contact your local DECS Speech Pathologist

Great Books for Language Learning No. 1

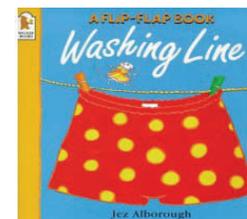


Simple Descriptions

These stories describe one topic, which may include:

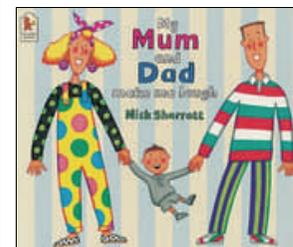
- **an action, like going to bed**
- **a character, like a pirate**
- **what people or animals typically do, like cats scratching, purring or pouncing.**
- **telling about something, like a season**

This one topic becomes a "theme." Many different events may happen in the story which are all connected by this theme. These stories tend to be simple with few words, and are great for talking about how the child's own experiences relate to what happened in the book.



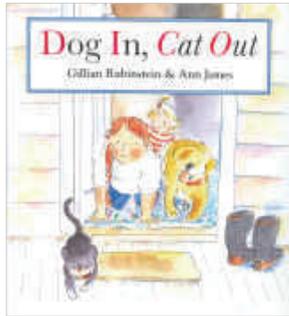
Washing Line Jez Alborough

Whose are those enormous underpants, those stripy socks, that tiny dress hanging on the washing line? Which animal do they belong to? This story has the theme of washing on a washing line.



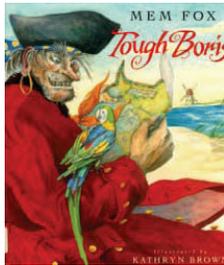
My Mum and Dad make me Laugh Nick Sharratt

Mum is crazy about spots - spotty clothes, spotty wallpaper, spotty games. Dad loves stripes - stripy suits and stripy ties, stripy lollies. No wonder they make their son laugh - mind you, they think that he's funny in his grey patternless clothes. Themes of stripes and spots connect the events in this amusing story.



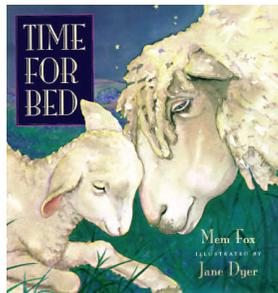
Dog In, Cat Out
Gillian Rubinstein & Ann James

Dog out, cat out, Cat in, dog in... And so it goes, from early morning, when the dog leaps out to explore the day until late at night, when the cat slips unnoticed through the window to settle down for the night. The story tells about what cats and dogs do throughout the day and night.



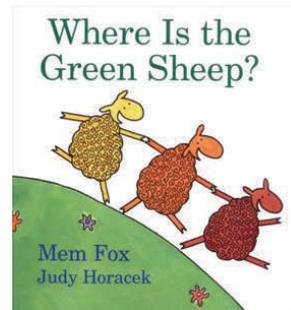
Tough Boris
Mem Fox

Boris von der Borch is a mean, greedy old pirate, tough as nails, through and through, like all pirates. Or is he? When a young boy sneaks onto Boris's ship, he discovers that pirates have feelings too when Boris' cherished bird dies.



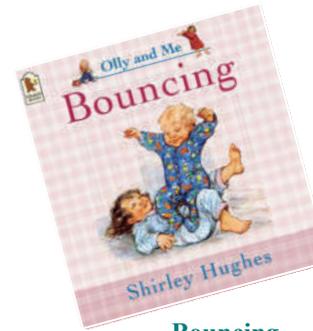
Time for Bed
Mem Fox

This story bids good night to a selection of animals being cuddled and coddled by their mothers. The theme of going to bed connects the characters in this delightful story.



Where Is the Green Sheep?
Mem Fox

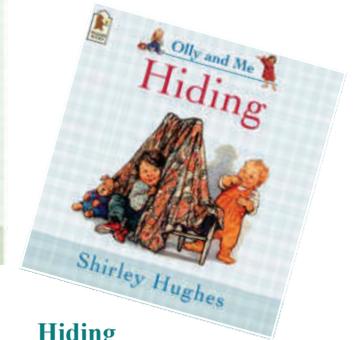
There are red sheep and blue sheep, wind sheep and wave sheep, scared sheep and brave sheep, but *where* is the green sheep? The actions and sizes of different sheep is the theme in this book.



Bouncing

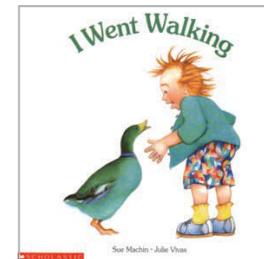


Chatting
By Shirley Hughes



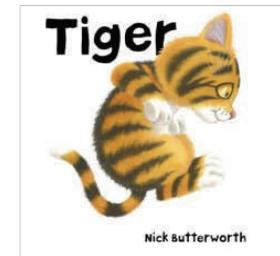
Hiding

These picture books take simple actions and show the many lively situations they can evoke, whether it be the moon hiding behind the clouds, chatting with friends or the cat or bouncing a big shiny ball. With warmth and humour, Shirley Hughes portrays the many applications one simple word can have.



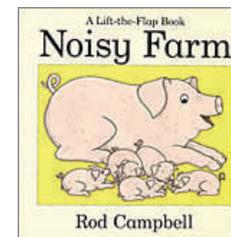
I Went Walking
Sue Machin

I went walking what did you see? I saw a yellow dog looking at me! The themes of animals, seeing and colour connect the events in this story.



Tiger
Nick Butterworth

Tiger is a cute little kitten who wants to be just like a real tiger. He pretends that he has big claws and that he can roar loudly. Tiger runs, creeps, snarls and sleeps just like a real tiger!



Noisy Farm
Rod Campbell

Early in the morning the farm comes to life. "Cock-a-doodle-doo", crows the rooster. "Woof! woof!", barks Sam the dog. There are lots more noises to guess as we follow Sam around the farm.