

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

Research has shown that vocabulary development and the ability to sequence ideas are very important in the development of literacy skills. A child's natural interest in stories can be used to help develop these language skills. Repeated readings of the same story is also helpful.

Learning New Words

When you come across a word that is new to the child:

- Explain what the word means,
eg. "Enormous means really really big"
- Show what the word means in different ways, for example acting out the meaning, pointing to pictures and giving the child real life examples of when you would use this word,
eg. "Remember that really big digger we saw this morning—it was enormous! It was really, really big. Just enormous!"
- See if the child can think of some examples that show their understanding of the new word,
eg. "Can you think of something enormous - something really really big?"
- Then take turns to put the new word into sentences,
eg. "I saw an enormous spider in the garden!"
- Find different pictures that show the meaning of the word to help extend the child's understanding. Good pictures can often be found through internet searches.

Keep the new words "on your radar" so that when an opportunity comes up, you can use the words again.

Sequences

Understanding sequence means understanding the order of events - one thing leading to another. You can help develop this understanding when you:

- "Think out loud" as you do activities paying extra attention to the order of things,
eg. "I'm doing the dishes. First I need to fill the sink, then squirt the dishwashing liquid in the water ..."
- Play! The "think out loud" strategy can be used during play or talk about what happened after play finished.
- Use your phone or camera to take photos of sequences, like making toast or going for a walk. Look through the photos and talk about the sequence. You may like to print the photos and make a book that you can talk about and share.

For further information contact your local DECS Speech Pathologist

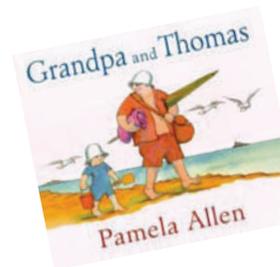
Great Books for Language Learning No. 2



Simple Stories with Sequences

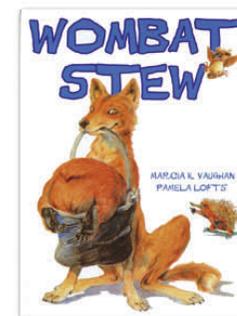
These stories have a sequence of events that lead to a simple conclusion. Sharing these stories with children will help them learn how events occur in order, one after another. This helps children learn to organize ideas in their talking, so when they tell about what they have done, these "stories" have a sequence of events. Clear sequences help to get the message across!

Grandpa and Thomas Pamela Allen



Grandpa and Thomas have a lovely time at the beach, building sandcastles, filling buckets with water, building a tunnel in the sand and having a picnic. At the end of the day, Grandpa takes a sleepy Thomas home.

Wombat Stew Marcia Vaughan



A dingo captures a wombat and decides to cook him in a stew. Several animals come by and offer suggestions as to what Dingo should put in his stew. He follows their advice, adding all sorts of not so appetizing ingredients. In the end, Dingo's stew turns out to be horrible and wombat is saved.



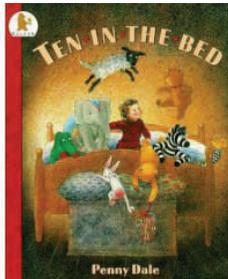
The Very Hungry Caterpillar Eric Carle

The Very Hungry Caterpillar recounts the transformation of a caterpillar into a beautiful butterfly. The caterpillar eats increasing amounts of different foods on each day of the week, and eventually grows big and fat. Children will learn about the sequence of growing and the life cycle of the caterpillar.



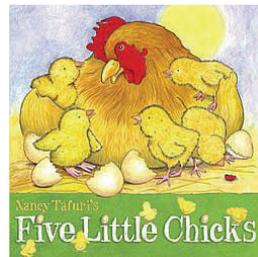
Mister Seahorse Eric Carle

Mrs. Seahorse lays her eggs into a pouch in the belly of Mr Seahorse, who then looks after the eggs. Then, drifting through the sea, the expectant father meets up with other fish who are also carrying eggs. Mr. Seahorse also unknowingly swims by other sea creatures, cleverly camouflaged behind seaweed, a coral reef and a rock. Finally the babies are born and they swim off together.



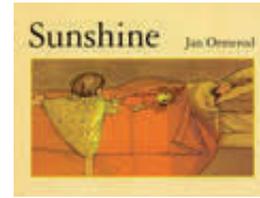
Ten in the Bed Penny Dale

One by one, nine friends roll over and fall out of a boy's bed with a thump, until the boy tells them he misses them and they all get back into the bed.



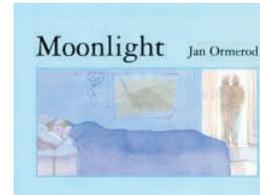
Five Little Chicks Nancy Tafuri

Mama Hen's five newborn chicks are hungry. Each chick spies different foods but the hen steers her brood's attention to the corn patch, where they can "scratch, scratch, scratch." Then the chicks cuddle up to Mama Hen after a hard day's pecking.

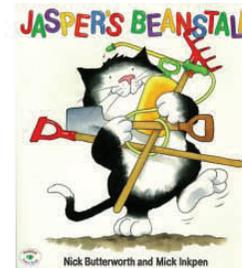


Sunshine **Moon Light** Jan Ormerod

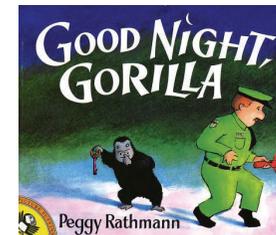
These are wordless picture books and tell about the routine of a family as they start and finish the day. Wonderful sequences of pictures unfold, perfectly recording the day and evening. The story is told by talking about the pictures and can be related to the child's own experiences of their day. Children can be encouraged to have a turn at telling their own story from the pictures.



Jasper's Beanstalk Nick Butterworth & Mick Inkpen

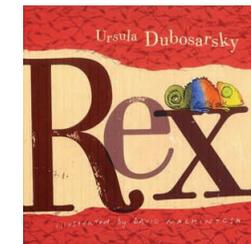


Jasper found a bean on Monday and on Tuesday, he planted it. Each successive day of the week he tends his would-be beanstalk, but when no growth appears in a week's time, Jasper digs up the bean and tosses it over his shoulder, lamenting, "That bean will never make a beanstalk." Of course the beanstalk eventually grows, much to Jasper's delight.



Good Night, Gorilla Peggy Rathman

While the zookeeper says good night to the animals in the zoo, the gorilla steals his keys and unlocks each animal's cage. The animals follow the keeper as he walks home. When his wife says, "Good night dear" seven voices reply, "Good night," and it's up to her to return the animals.



Rex Ursula Dubosarsky

Rex, a tiny chameleon, is the class pet. Every day someone takes Rex home, along with a notebook for recording his adventures.