

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

Problems and Solutions

Children need to understand “**cause and effect**” or how one action can cause another to occur, a little like the domino effect. You can help develop understanding of **cause-effect** by explaining why things happen as you do activities. Pay extra attention to the problem and how it happened. Use words like “**because**” and “**so**” to help link ideas and explain.

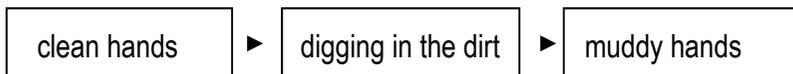
Focus on Explaining

- Talk about what you did before the problem happened, eg. “*You were running down the stairs*”
- Say what happened, eg. “*You fell over on the stairs*”.
- Explain why eg. “*You fell **because** your feet were moving too fast so you missed a step and that made you fall.*”

This is different to asking questions which is a way of “testing” understanding, eg. “*Why did you fall?*” Talking through steps and giving reasons for what happens builds understanding of “why” things occur. This approach helps children learn to understand and answer “why” questions.

Some simple problems to talk about include getting dirty, wet, hurt or losing something. To help children understand why problems occur, you can:

- Act out or show a problem, for example, show you have muddy hands because you have been digging in the garden.
- Take photos showing the problem
- Explain why your hands are dirty eg. “*My hands are dirty because the dirt is wet and sticky. The dirt sticks to my hands when I dig, so my hands are dirty. I need to wash the dirt off to make them clean.*”



- When reading a story, find the problem and talk about it. Use some of the above ideas to help build understanding of the situation, how it happened and how it was solved.

For further information contact your local DECS Speech Pathologist

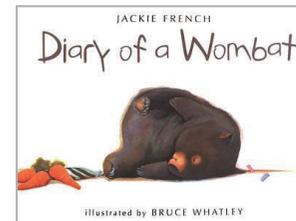
Great Books for Language Learning No. 3



Stories with Simple Problems and Solutions

These stories tell how problems cause something to happen which then leads to another event, so a simple chain of events develops. These stories help children understand and learn about what causes problems and what happens as a result. This is known as “cause and effect” and is an important part of understanding “why” things occur, which is a critical thinking and language skill.

Diary of a Wombat Jackie French

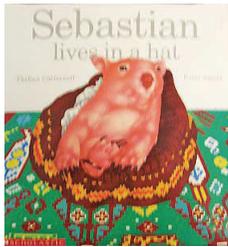


Diary of a Wombat covers eight days in the life of this wombat. She eats. She scratches. She sleeps. She interacts with a human family and teaches them when she would like carrots, when she would like oats and when she would like both at the same time.

Handa's Surprise Eileen Browne

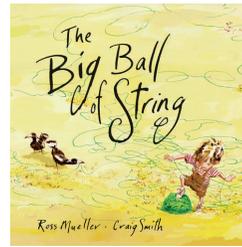


Handa puts seven fruits in a basket to take to her friend. As she walks, carrying the basket on her head, various animals steal all her fruits. Her empty basket is then filled with tangerines through a simple chain of events. However Handa is blissfully unaware of this and it is Handa that gets the surprise in the end.



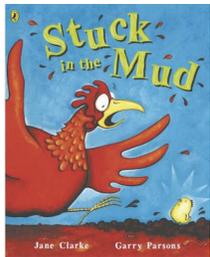
Sebastian Lives in a Hat
Thelma Caterwell

The mother of Sebastian, a wombat, was killed by a car when he was about four months old and was still in her pouch. He was then cared for by a family and lived in a hat until he was able to return to the wild.



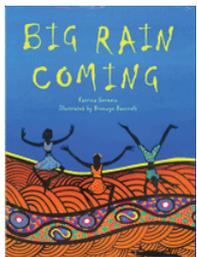
The Big Ball of String
Ross Mueller

This story is about a boy who makes a ball out of a ball of string so he can play soccer. He kicks it and kicks it until the ball unravels. He imagines it is lost to him and searches for it, then discovers it again after rolling it back up.



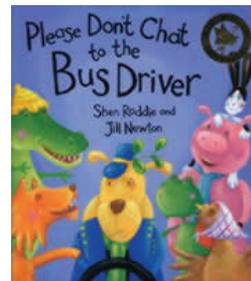
Stuck in the Mud
Jane Clarke

Early in the morning down on the farm, hen discovers that one of her chicks is stuck in the mud. The farm animals try to help pull chick out, but end up getting stuck in the mud along with chick!



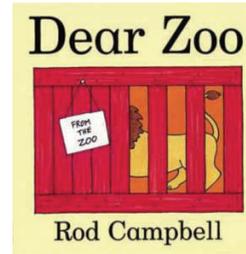
Big Rain Coming
Katrina Gerrein

The Australian outback is dry and everyone is waiting for the rain, which seems as though it will never come. Rosie's kids, the panting dogs, the fat green frogs, and Old Stephen the Aboriginal elder all do what they can to keep cool as they watch for storm clouds on the horizon.



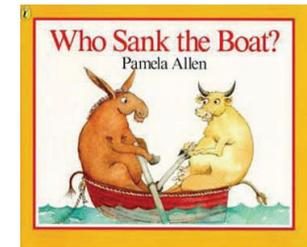
Please Don't Chat to the Bus Driver
Shen Roddie & Jill Newton

The bus is late and all the animals are waiting. When the bus arrives each animal is told in turn "Please don't chat to the bus driver," but no animal can resist just a few words. Soon the bus driver is so busy listening that his bus is later than before and many things go wrong.



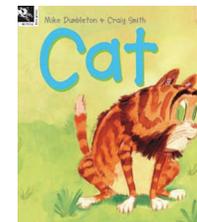
Dear Zoo
Rod Campbell

A child writes a letter to the zoo asking for a pet. The child receives different pets, however none are appropriate and simple reasons are given to explain why. Finally he receives the perfect pet, a puppy.



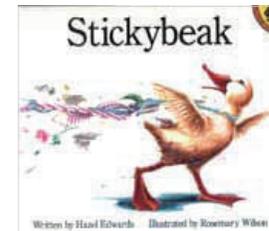
Who Sank the Boat?
Pamela Allen

One day a cow, pig, donkey and mouse decide to take a boat ride. The boat is small and as each animal gets into the boat, the boat sinks lower and lower into the water until the last animal finally sinks the boat.



Cat
Mike Dumbleton

Cat is out for adventure. He encounters a bird, a fish, a bike and as a result a chase is on. This books shows many little problems and their consequences.



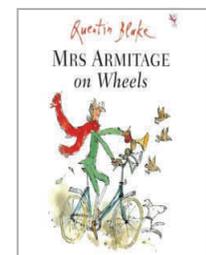
Stickybeak
Hazel Edwards

Stickybeak is a duck. He is a school pet and the story describes an adventure filled weekend caring for him.

Mrs Armitage and the Big Wave
Quentin Blake



Mrs Armitage sets out on a journey with Breakspear the dog. Problems occur along the way and Mrs Armitage uses some very creative thinking to add inventions to her bike and surfboard to make their journeys more comfortable.



Mrs Armitage on Wheels
Quentin Blake