

2. Talking about books

Talking about books with your child

- What kind of things do you talk about when reading with your child? Plot? Settings? Characters?
- How do you question your child? What type of questions do you ask?
- What type of questions does your child ask you about books?



Communication and language skills form the foundations for children's future learning

- The Department for Education found that:
- Language development at the age of 2 years predicts children's performance on entry to primary school.
- Children's communication environment influences language development.
- Children's language and their communication environment influence their performance at school entry.



The role of books in supporting language development

- Children learn new vocabulary from books and can use it, in context, when discussing stories.
- Books give children grammatical structures that they can use and adapt in various situations.
- Children learn ideas from the books they read. They use and adapt these ideas in their play and own stories.
- Adults can use story times as an opportunity to model new language and sentence structures.



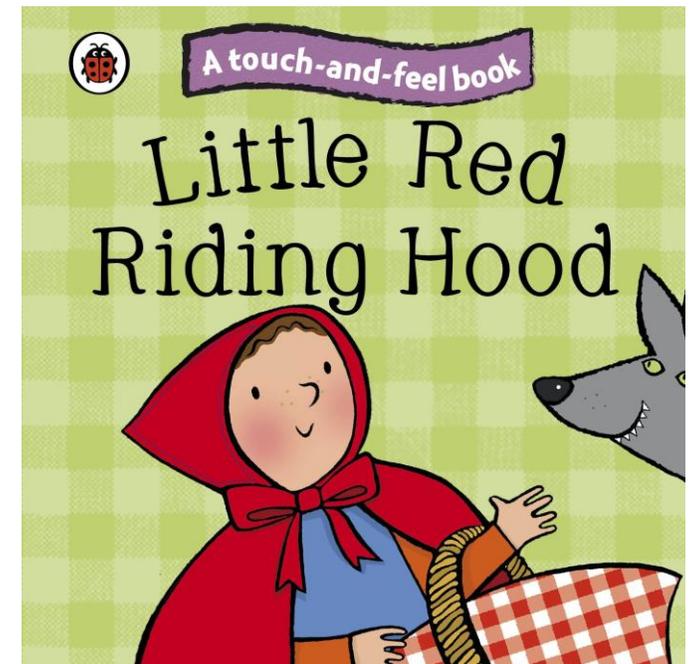
Asking questions

- When we read with children, we tend to bombard them with lots of questions that we already know the answers to.
- In a natural conversation, we would not normally ask so many questions.
- We tend to use more statements than questions in conversations.
- Here are a few things to consider:



Talking about books

- **Avoid 'closed questions' and questions you already know the answer to.**
- What colour is Little Red Riding Hood's coat?
- What is that?
- What is she carrying?
- Who is that?
- Where is the wolf?



Talking about books

- **Try using statements instead. Doing this can open up discussion.**
- What colour is her coat? – I noticed she is wearing a red coat.
- What is that? – I see a wolf sneaking up on her.
- What is she carrying? – I wonder why she has a basket.
- Who is that? I can see the wood cutter. I wonder what he will do.
- Where is the wolf? The wolf is hiding in the trees. I think he is plotting something.

Talking about books

- **Ask open questions to find out what your child thinks. Model giving your opinion too.**
- Where do you think she might be going? Why do you think that?
- What do you think she should do?
- Why do you think the wolf is following her?

Talking about books

- **Relate the content of the story to other experiences**
- Red Riding Hood is going to her grandmother's. Tell me about your grandmother.
- When we went to the zoo, we saw a wolf. Can you describe it for me.
- Little Red Riding Hood is taking a picnic to her grandmother. What would you put in your picnic basket?

Have a go!

- Have a go at some of the reading tips mentioned in this Power point.
- The next Power point will look at the reading environment.

