

4. Play around books

Book-related play

- Do you do any activities linked to the books you read with your child?
- What type of activities do you do?
- What type of book-related activities have you observed your child doing independently?



Activities linked to books

- Play linked to books can help children to understand stories better.
- These activities provide opportunities for children to both imitate stories and adapt them to create something new.
- Children can make resources to support their play, developing problem-solving and creative skills.
- During play, children can experiment with new vocabulary and grammatical structures.
- Imaginative play allows children to question what they have learnt and move away from stereotypes (for example, by changing the characters in a story).

Building on learning

- You can build on children's learning by organising activities linked to the stories you have read with your child. For example:
- Read 'The Gingerbread Man' then bake gingerbread men.
- Read 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' then use different materials to build bridges.
- Read 'Jack and the Beanstalk' then plant and grow seeds.
- Read 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' then go on a bear hunt in the woods or park.



Role-play

- Children can act out stories they have read. Using props, such as clothing and household items, can help enhance these experiences.
- Children love when adults join in with their role-play. Again, adults can model new ideas, vocabulary and sentence structures.
- Once a child is familiar with the original story, they can change some of the key features (such as characters or settings) and act out their new story.



Arts and crafts

- You can buy or print out resources for small-world and role-play. However, it is lots of fun to make your own.
- Use everyday items around the house for role-play. The more imaginative, the better.
- Try making stick or finger puppets for small-world play.



Have a go!

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

