

Telling stories using picture sequences

Getting started: SINGLE PICTURES

- Start with the 4 picture sequences – **Catching fish** or **Baby birds**. Put a single picture card on the table. Ask your child to look at the picture, name things in the picture and say what is happening. You can choose names for the children in the pictures
- Practice 'guided looking' by saying:
 - Look at the ...
 - Look for... (finding something in the picture)
 - Look and describe (e.g. colour and size)
 - Looking again; what else can you see?

Helpful hint:

Colour the pictures with your child, before or after telling your stories. Help your child to use appropriate colours, e.g. The children in the story will be wearing the same colour clothes on the way to the shop and on the way home]

You will need to do lots of encouraging for your child to look, and to **keep looking**.

Point with your finger to show your child where to look.

- Connect with the child's own experience:
 - a. Did you ever see something like that?
 - b. Did something like that ever happen to you?
 - c. Have you got something like that?
- Talk about the pictures in depth: **WHO** can you see? (characters and objects)
 - d. **WHAT** is he/she/ it **DOING**? (verbs and actions)
 - e. **WHAT ELSE** can you see? (looking again, more carefully)
 - f. **WHERE** is the.../ Where is he playing?/ Where is the ...? (use words like: on, in, under, next to...)
 - g. **WHY** do you think ...

These questions are often difficult for children at first. It is fine for you to model the answers to these questions until children are confident enough to respond

Telling stories using picture sequences (continued)

PICTURE SEQUENCES

- Once you have looked at all the pictures, ask your child to tell a story with you.
Ask what happened at the beginning? You can model the start of the story by saying: 'Once upon a time...'
OR 'One day ...'. Then use words like 'What happened next?'
- At first you might need to retell the story, while you encourage your child to look for the next picture.
Once your child is more confident, let him try to sequence the pictures and tell you what is happening in each one.
- Once you have agreed on a sequence, model telling the story and then encourage your child to use the pictures to tell his own version of the story.

PICTURE SEQUENCES 1: Catching Fish



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PICTURE SEQUENCES 4: Going to the Shop



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