



### **Early Reading in Reception – September 2021**

Your child has brought home a book with no words and will do for the next week or so as we start on our phonics journey. We have also enclosed your child's reading record so that you can write in the date (under 'My Reading Record') when you have looked at the book with your child and make a comment if you wish. We will use the 'My Phonics Record' as term progresses.

#### **Why a wordless book?**

Reading is more than being able to read the words. Wordless books reinforce the idea that the story and pictures are connected. Teaching children to talk about the story, rather than just reading the words, will help them to develop their comprehension skills. Sharing a wordless book will also develop communication skills and give them an increased awareness of how stories are "built," as the storyteller often uses a 'beginning, middle, end' format. These are all skills your child will need for writing their own stories later on.

On each page of the books we are sending home, there are examples of questions you might ask your child. Do remember that there are no 'right' or 'wrong' ways to read a wordless book. One of the wonderful benefits of using these books is how each child creates their own story (or stories!) from the same pictures. Here are a few more tips for sharing wordless picture books with your child:

- Spend time looking at the cover and talking about the book's title. Based on those two things, make a few predictions about the story.
- Take a "picture walk" through the pages of the book. Look carefully at the expressions on characters' faces, the setting and the colours they can see. Talk to each other about what you see. These conversations will enrich the storytelling.
- Enjoy the pictures and point out a few things, but don't worry too much about telling a story yet. Just enjoy the pictures and get a sense of what the book is about.
- Go back through the book a second time and get ready for some great storytelling! Consider going first and acting as a model for your child. Have different voices for the characters, add sound effects and use interesting words in your version of the book.
- Encourage your child to "read" you the book with their storytelling. Focus on the words your child uses when they tell the story. Help your child expand their sentences or thoughts by encouraging them to add information from the illustration's details. One way to encourage more details is by asking "W" questions: Who? What? Where? When? Why?
- Finish your wordless book sharing by asking a few simple questions: What pictures helped you tell the story? What was your favourite part of your story? Have you had an experience like the one in your story?

Remember the most important thing is to foster a love of books. Hopefully, for a book with no words, you'll be surprised at all the talking they will do, and all the fun they'll have!

Please can you ensure all books are returned, with reading records on Monday, which will allow us to select a new book for your child. Any questions, please do let me know.

Kind Regards, Tracey Elliott