

Wordless picture books – lilac book band

How to share a wordless picture book with your child

Sharing a book together is an important part of a child's reading journey whether there are words to read or not. Many reading skills are learnt before children start to know sounds and using the sounds to read words.

Here are some ideas for you to use whilst sharing wordless picture books with your child:

- Check that your child knows how to hold a book. Are they holding the book the right way up and turning the pages in the correct way?
- Talk about the front cover. What can you see on the front cover? Talk about the pictures in lots of detail to encourage talk and vocabulary.
- Point out the title and read it to your child. Encourage the child to repeat it back to you.
- Encourage your child to turn the pages in their book.
- Whilst you are sharing the book, continue to talk about the pictures. Ask your child questions about what they can see happening. Encourage them to name objects in the pictures. Ask them to predict what might happen next.
- Discuss anything in the book that has happened in your family. For example, if the book is about visiting the seaside, remind your child about the time they visited the seaside. What did we do at the seaside? What do you need to take when you are going to the seaside? This will help your child to link their own experiences with the book to deepen their understanding.
- Once you have shared the book with your child, can they retell what happened? Look through the book again and encourage your child to explain what is happening in each part of the story. This is a good activity to check they understand the book and will develop their speaking skills.
- Always ask your child if they enjoyed the book. What was their favourite part? Did they find any parts funny? If your child did not like the book, can they explain why? Forming opinions and being able to share reasons why is an important reading skill to develop.

Happy reading!

