What to do
Listening & Speaking

IMPORTANT Parent or Carer –
Please check that you are happy with any weblinks or use of the internet.

Our focus today is speaking and listening – expressing ourselves in spoken language.

1. Listen to a story
Watch and listen to the story of The Ugly Duckling being told in this storytelling video:

2. Respond to the story

- Talk about the story. What happened in the story? Why were the other ducklings unkind to the ugly duckling? How were they different to him? How did the duckling feel? What could we say to cheer him up? What happened in the end?
- Discuss what you think about the fact that the ducklings were unkind because he was different to them? Is that a good way to behave?
- Discuss the question: Was the duckling really a baby duck? He grew into a swan so he must have been a signet (or a baby swan). Discuss how the mix up might have happened. Compare swan eggs to duck eggs.
- Help your child compare the images of the signet and duckling below on Duckling and Signet below. Describe how they are similar and different. Children can label features of the birds which are different, e.g. long neck, short neck.

Try these Fun-Time Extras

- Talk about the different sounds that the duckling and signet made in the story. Try making the different sounds. Listen to other bird sounds on:
https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/bird-songs/what-bird-is-that/
- Look out for nesting birds and newly hatched water birds in ponds and lakes. Can you spot the baby birds following their parents? Discuss the similarities and differences between the adults and their young.
- Make puppets with your hands quacking/honking like beaks and retell the story.
What to do
Reading

IMPORTANT Parent or Carer –
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Our focus today is reading.

1. Read an information book.
   Share and read together Spring for the Birds. This is a non-fiction (or information) book. You can find out information about what birds do in spring by reading it.

2. Respond to the information.
   - Discuss the question: What do birds do in springtime? Does this book tell us? Yes. They build nests and raise their young.
   - Discuss the different birds in the book. Read each bird name together. Spot the ‘wr’ to make a ‘r’ sound in wren. Do you know any other types of bird?
   - Compare the different foods that the baby birds are fed. Find and read each word that tells you what they ate.
   - Talk about the different places that the birds built their nests. Why do they choose high or hidden places?
     - Talk about how nesting birds are protected by law. Disturbing a nest can frighten the parent birds and scare them away. This is very dangerous for their babies.
     - Help your child design a poster explaining why we should careful around nests on Birds in Springtime below. They can use pictures and/or words to share their message.

Try these Fun-Time Extras

- Read the poem, Hen’s Song by Rose Fyleman, together (see below). Who is saying the poem?
- Read together about nests built in unusual places: https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52190125
- Read more about UK birds with the Woodland Trust: https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/animals/birds/
Hen’s Song
by Rose Fyleman

Chick, chick, come out of your shell.
I’ve warmed you long, and I’ve warmed you well.
The sun is hot and the sky is blue.
Quick, chick, it’s time you came through.
Our focus today is writing.

1. Discuss the type of information in a book

Read or re-read Spring for the Birds. This book has lots of information. What things can we find out by reading this book? Types of bird, where they build their nests, what they feed their young, etc.

2. Write captions.

- Explain that in information books, the pictures sometimes have captions: special sentences which explain what the pictures are showing. For example, page two’s caption could be ‘The blackbird sings to talk to other birds.’
- Explain that Spring for the Birds does not have any captions.
- Look at the pictures from the book on Captions below and work together to say some captions which could go with the pictures to explain what they are showing.
- Choose one or more pictures to write a caption for. (If your child has big writing, you can cut out the individual pictures and stick them on a new piece of paper for more room.)

NB. Getting young children to write is not easy! See Guidance and handwriting groups below.

Try these Fun-Time Extras

- Listen to bird song. Try ‘translating’ what they might be saying.
- Pretend to be a parent bird teaching fledglings to fly. What tips can you give?
Captions
What to do
Reading

IMPORTANT Parent or Carer –
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Our focus today is reading

1. Read a story
Share and read together Dear Postman enjoying the joke at the end. Notice the question marks in the letters. How do we say a sentence which ends in a question mark? Say some questions together using a questioning voice.

2. Respond to the story
   o What do you notice about each animal’s wish? They all wanted something to eat. What food would you ask for? What sort of food can come by post? What foods would not be a good idea to send in a parcel?!
   o Today we will remember the events in the story.
      o Look at the letters to the postman.
      o With each letter, read it together and help your child to record what the animal asked for below on What did they ask for? They can record their answer as a word or a sentence or even a picture next to the animal image.

Try these Fun-Time Extras
   o Find out more about pets with Cbeebies: https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/topics/pets
   o Make a zoo ticket with pictures, words and an entry price.
   o Feed a real pet together, talking about what they eat or ‘feed’ a cuddly toy, thinking about what food they might like.