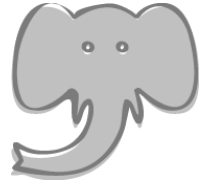


# Our world in books

Through sharing a rich variety of books and stories, children can explore the wider world and discover things that may, or may not, be a part of their everyday lives. They can find out about different people, different places and different ways of seeing things – all from the security and comfort of their own familiar world.

**Through books and stories children can find out about their world and the lives of other people.**



## Building a picture of our world

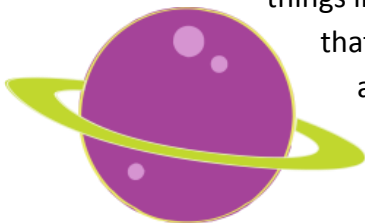
When children share books and stories they are adding to their picture of the world – they are learning about:

- new and unfamiliar things, such as animals, people, foods, places, lifestyles, cultures etc. that they may not have seen or experienced
- things they may be familiar with, but which happen in different circumstances or to different people
- other ways of behaving and responding to situations

**Books and stories open up other worlds for children.**

## Different worlds, different ways

Our wonderful world is full of different ways of life, different behaviours and different feelings. Exploring and discovering these things in books help children begin to recognise that other people have values, opinions and ways of doing things that may not be the same as theirs.



## Understanding our world

**Books and stories help children to explore their feelings and widen their understanding of the world.**

Exploring the world in books and stories help children to:

- use their imagination
- explore the feelings and behaviours of characters in books – and think about how they might feel or behave too
- build on what they already know - by describing lives which are similar to their own but with perhaps something new that they may not have thought about before
- discover new possibilities by exploring places, circumstances and things which they have not yet experienced
- explore what is real and what is pretend – did the tiger really come to tea?
- laugh and share the fun with you!



## Similar but different

Some stories can be very special for children, particularly when they touch on their own experiences. Sharing books and stories about familiar routines, or where circumstances are similar to their own



help children realise that not everything happens in exactly the same way as it does for them.

Talking about their experiences and comparing them to those in stories can help children make sense of the world and increase their confidence and understanding.

## Interesting things – fact and fiction

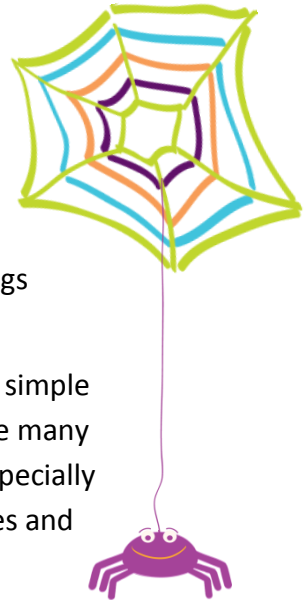
Sharing books and stories is a wonderful way to extend children’s knowledge and understanding of the world around them – particularly things that they are interested in, such as dinosaurs, princesses, mini beasts (bugs and insects!), trains, diggers etc.

Children can find be fascinated by books with simple facts about their favourite subjects. There are many factual books (*non-fiction*) that are written especially for children – they often have engaging images and really interesting snippets of information.

Storybooks (*fiction*) offer opportunities to explore the behaviours and feelings of the characters. They encourage children’s imagination and introduce them to a world of endless possibilities.



Sharing information or factual books (*non-fiction*) and storybooks (*fiction*) can help children to explore the differences between what is real and what is pretend.



## Exploring our world together

Exploring the world in books and stories provides lots of things to talk about – and also helps children’s developing language.

Commenting on the words and pictures and asking simple questions will encourage your child to think and talk about what they are seeing and hearing:



### **The characters**

- *She's hurt her knee*
- *He looks really sad*
- *What's happening?*
- *What are they doing?*
- *I wonder how they feel?*
- *Can you see the cat in the tree?*

### **What might happen next?**

- *What's he going to do now?*
- *Oh no! Is he going to fall?*

### **Your child's experiences**

- *You've got a blanket just like Spot's*
- *Do you remember when a wasp was buzzing around near you?*
- *We went on a ferry like that one, to the Isle of Wight.*

### **Unfamiliar things**

- *I think you might like kiwi – let's get some to try next time we go shopping*
- *Perhaps we can take the train next time we go to see Granny*
- *That giraffe looks really tall – do you think it's as tall as a lamppost?!*



**Books and stories can take you on amazing adventures where you can find out new and exciting things about the world together.**