

Parent Resource Guide

Helping Your Child Learn English Through Stories

Target age: 5–8 years

Suggested level: CEFR Pre A1 to A1

Focus: Prediction, repetition, speaking confidence and reflection

Learning Objectives**By the end of the activity, your child will be able to:**

- Make simple predictions about a story
- Read a story using expressions
- Repeat key phrases
- Express feelings using simple sentences
- Answer simple comprehension questions
- Connect the story to their own experiences

Key Vocabulary Focus

- Story phrases (e.g. “Uh oh! A river!”)
- Repeated structures (e.g. “I can’t go under it.”)
- Feelings vocabulary (e.g. scared, happy, excited)
- Simple future ideas (e.g. “What do you think will happen?”)

Home Activity: Step-by-Step Guide (10–15 minutes)

This activity follows a communicative TESOL approach — combining prediction, listening, repetition and discussion.

Step 1: Talk About the Cover (Prediction)

- Show your child the book cover.
- Ask simple questions:
 - Who is this?
 - What do you think the story is about?
 - What do you think will happen?
- Encourage full sentences where possible.

Step 2: Read and Dramatise

- Read the story with expression and actions.
- Use different voices for excitement or surprise.
 - Example: “Uh oh! A river! A deep cold river!”
- Make the story lively and engaging.

Step 3: Repeat Key Phrases

- Ask your child to repeat important lines:
 - “I can’t go under it.”
 - “We’re not going on a bear hunt again!”
- Say it together first, then let them try independently.

Step 4: Reflect and Personalise

- Ask:
 - Would you go on a bear hunt?
 - Would you be scared?
 - How did the characters feel?
- Encourage simple full-sentence answers.

Listening & Pronunciation Practice

- Encourage your child to read short, repeated lines with you.
- Pause before key words and let your child complete the sentence.
- Ask your child to retell one small part of the story.
- Keep reading time short, positive and enjoyable.

Simple Comprehension Questions

After reading, ask:

- What happened first?
- What was the problem?
- How did they feel at the end?

Encourage answers such as:

- “They felt scared.”

Extension Activities *(Optional)*

- Draw your favourite part of the story.
- Act out one scene together.
- Create a simple board game using story events.
- Ask your child to change the ending.

Why This Works (TESOL Approach)

This activity:

- ✓ Activates background knowledge through prediction
- ✓ Uses modelling and scaffolding
- ✓ Encourages repetition in meaningful context
- ✓ Builds listening and speaking confidence
- ✓ Connects language to emotion and real life

Short, regular reading sessions (10 minutes, 3 times per week) are more effective than occasional long sessions.