

Developing Language Skills

Use the following techniques to help develop your child's language.

Encouraging Prediction and Developing Reasoning Ability

Use the illustrations to engage your child in the possibilities of the story line. Encourage anticipation what may happen: e.g.:

"Milly and Don are taking new cat and dog home."; "How do you think Bella and Sam will feel?"; "Do you think they will want to be friends with the new cat and dog?"; "What do you think will happen when Mum sees the new animals?"

Encouraging Word Associations

Extend your child's vocabulary by helping him to develop associations with a word in the story: e.g.:

"If we go to a Rescue Centre, will we see lots of animals?"; "What kind of animals live in Rescue Centres? – Dogs, cats, donkeys."

Encourage Naming within a Category

Encourage your child to give examples within a category already present. Talk about the different animals Milly and Don could have taken home, e.g.:

"Milly took a cat home with her, Don took a dog?"; "What animal would you like to take home?"; "What would your Mum say if you brought a pet home?"

Encouraging Sequencing and Recall

When you have finished reading the story, encourage your child to retell it to you in their own words. Prompt recall the story in sequence with questions, e.g.:

"Where did Uncle Aidan take Milly and Don?"; "What did the children want to take home with them?"; "How did Mum feel when the children came home with a cat and a dog?"; "How did Sam and Bella feel?"; "What happened at the end of the story?"