



## Inference

What is Inference? There are two ways to understand language: 1. Literal: things that we can observe happening. E.g. "The boy is kicking the ball" 2. Inferential: where we work out what is happening using information from observation and our own experiences. E.g. "The boy is wearing boots because it is wet outside" Children learn how to make inferences through day to day interactions, by looking at pictures and listening to/reading stories. Inference skills are important to help children understand stories and everyday situations.

### **Develop your child's knowledge of everyday situations**

Talk about places you have been with your child (e.g. a park or shop) or things you have read or seen (e.g. in books or movies).

### **Talk to your child about what is happening around you**

If you pick up an umbrella as you leave the house talk to your child about why you have done this. E.g. "oh look, there are lots of clouds so it might rain, let's take an umbrella".

### **Help your child to 'read' other people's emotions**

Talk about how you are feeling and why. E.g. "She is biting her nails, this might mean she is nervous". •

### **Be aware of the kind of question your child is able to understand**

'Who', 'what' and 'where' questions are easier than 'when', 'how' and 'why' questions.

### **Make sure your child understands what is happening in the story before asking more difficult questions**

The child should first understand "The wolf has blown down the three little pigs houses" before talking about 'why' the wolf has done this.

### **Ask your child one question at a time and giving them plenty of time to answer**

E.g. "Why did the wolf blow down the house?" If your child is not able to answer then model the answer for them. E.g. "The wolf blew the house down because he wanted to eat the pig"

### **Encourage your child to give their opinion on a story/situation**

If your child says “I like the wolf” you might comment “Oh that’s interesting, what do you like about the wolf?” Later you may comment “Some people find the wolf scary because he wants to eat the pigs”.

**Help your child to understand stories and everyday situations by suggesting and commenting**

Use phrases such as “I wonder if the wolf is hungry” instead of “the wolf is hungry”