

Ideas to use with the story

Remember when together with your child:

Get **DOWN** to your **CHILD'S LEVEL**

LISTEN

Make **EYE CONTACT**

MODEL sounds during play

Find a **QUIET** area for reading!

Use your **VOICE** and **FACE** to make it fun and enjoyable!

Things that will help you:

With young children you don't need to read every word from the story, you can just talk about the pictures.

Try to avoid asking too many questions—just point and name. Try pointing and saying “It's a.” leave a **SHORT** pause, if your child does not fill in the gap, then you say what it is.

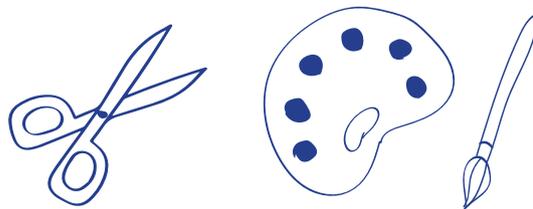
Give your child lots of praise and encouragement and add words to what they say. For example if your child says “ark.” You say “Yes! A **BIG** shark!”

With children who are a little older, gently encourage your child to talk about the book afterwards, see what they can remember.

Enjoy the book online:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book/s/shark-in-the-park/>

Make a telescope



Use **junk modelling** with your child. Make a telescope from the book *Shark in the Park*. This is a fun way for you to support your child to use their imagination and solve problems.

Skill: imagination

What do I need?

- Cardboard tube (kitchen roll, crisp tube)
- Sellotape, glue, scissors
- Shiny stars or paper to make your telescope look fun
- Coloured crayons/felts
- Newspaper to cover the table

Getting started?

- Gather all of the materials together
- Support and encourage your child to create their own telescope
- Praise your child for their efforts

Remember to have lots of fun with words! You can add new words to your child's vocabulary while talking about sharks. For example: Join, round, long, look.

Talk about what you and your child are doing, as you are doing it - almost like a commentator! Speak in simple sentences and give your little one time to respond!

TOP TIP

Talk about your actions while you play. For example: "Cut, cut. Cut it out." "Stick. Stick it on. That's it. Good sticking!"

Fun facts about sharks



Find **fun facts about sharks**. Talk about the facts. For example: describe the shark, How many teeth does a shark have? Talk to your child about the sharks they like and encourage your child to draw a picture of their favourite fact.

Skills: speaking, fact finding

What do I need?

- If you can, find shark pictures to look at and talk about.
- Something for your child to record their facts e.g. video, paper, pencils etc

Getting started?

- Encourage your child to look through the shark pictures and talk about them with your child
- Praise your child for their contribution and efforts

Remember to have lots of fun with words! You can add new words to your child's vocabulary while talking about sharks. For example: shark, bones, teeth, sea.

Talk about what you and your child are doing, as you are doing it - almost like a commentator! Speak in simple sentences and give your little one time to respond!

TOP TIP

When you are talking about sharks, if your child says a word, add to it. For example, your child says "Eyes". You say "Yes! Big eyes! Black eyes!". Or "Sea". "Yes! Sea. Sharks live in the sea!" Talking about facts helps children store words in categories in their minds, which makes it easier for them to recall words when they need to.

Join in with rhyme time



Make fun rhymes using the story *Shark in the Park*. Read the book to your child, stopping at the words 'shark' and 'park'. Tell your child about other words that rhyme with shark and park.

Skill: rhyming

What do I need?

- The book *Shark in the Park*
- Scary Shark Poem – please find on the next page

Getting started?

- Read the book together and then look through the rhyme
- Encourage your child to think of other rhyming words
- Praise your child for their efforts

Remember to have lots of fun with words! You can add new words to your child's vocabulary while talking about sharks. For example: shark, park, bark, dark.

Talk about what you and your child are doing, as you are doing it - almost like a commentator! Speak in simple sentences and give your little one time to respond!

TOP TIP

Sing at least one nursery rhyme together every day with the actions. Children love nursery rhymes and they are a great way to learn new words because the words are repeated so often and the actions make the meaning clear.

Join in with rhyme time



Scary Shark (tune of I'm a Little Teapot)

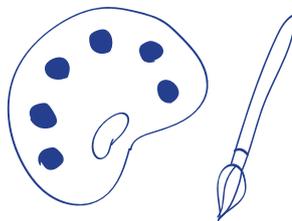
I'm a scary shark,
just look at me.
I can be found
swimming in the sea.

I like to eat fish,
and a great big seal.
I'm not picky
when it comes to my meals.

If I break a tooth
it will grow right back.
So I don't worry about
what I have for a snack!

I'm a scary shark,
just look at me.
I can be found
swimming in the sea.

Animal prints



Make prints with your child to help them experiment with textures and objects and create simple patterns. This is a fun way for you to support your child talk about their favourite animal.

Skills: printing, rolling, repeating

What do I need?

- Newspaper
- Paint
- Brushes
- Sponge
- Comb

Getting started?

- Encourage your child to use the different tools with paint
- Talk about the different patterns you have created together
- Praise your child for their efforts

Remember to have lots of fun with words! You can add new words to your child's vocabulary while talking about sharks. For example: stripe, texture, feel, pattern.

Talk about what you and your child are doing, as you are doing it - almost like a commentator! Speak in simple sentences and give your little one time to respond!

TOP TIP

When your child is using the resources encourage them to look at patterns on different animals e.g. the stripes on a Zebra.

Play a game



Play a game of **eye spy** with your child, e.g. You say Timothy Pope, Timothy Pope what can you see through your telescope? Your child uses their telescope to look at items and pulls them out of a feely bag to talk about the item together. You can model descriptive words and emphasise “Snake – that starts with “sss.”

Skills: learning about their environment, observing and identifying everyday objects

What do I need?

- Bag with a few different items in (eg plastic animals, food and any other items)

Getting started?

- Hide the items in the bag
- Encourage your child to look into the bag and pull out an item
- Praise your child for their efforts when describing the item

Remember to have lots of fun with words! You can add new words to your child’s vocabulary while playing the game by naming what comes out of the bag. Pause first to see if your child can name the item. You can try to prompt them. For example: “It’s a...” If they are unable to name the item then you can say the name.

Talk about what you and your child are doing, as you are doing it - almost like a commentator! Speak in simple sentences and give your little one time to respond!

TOP TIP

When playing the feely bag game you can put different categories of items in the bag like food items and animals. These can then be sorted into two piles.