Bedtime Story Questions That Quietly Build Reception Reading Skills

Key points

- Sharing stories helps your child develop comprehension, which is the ability to understand and make sense of what is being read.
- Talking about a book helps children build a vocabulary of new words before they can read them independently.
- Using picture clues helps children understand that images provide important information about the story.
- Asking simple questions encourages children to predict what might happen next, which is a key early reading skill.
- Every child develops at their own pace, so the most important thing is that story time remains a happy, relaxed experience.

Things to try at home

- Point to a picture and ask, 'What do you think is happening here?' to help them use visual clues.
- Pause before turning the page and ask, 'What do you think will happen next?' to encourage prediction.
- When you find a new or unusual word, talk about what it might mean in a playful way.
- After the story, ask your child to tell you their favourite part to help them practice retelling.

Find out more

- Your child's class teacher or the school's EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) lead.
- The GOV.UK website for official guidance on the National Curriculum.
- Your school's library or reading coordinator.