

# Notes for parents and other helpers

## Enjoying and talking about the story

**CLL 1** listening and responding to stories; **CLL 2** linking events; **CLL 4** understanding stories

- Remember that the most important thing is to have fun and enjoy the story!
- Make sure that you are both in the mood for a story before you begin.
- Read the title and talk about the cover. **'Who is that in the shed? I wonder what the person is doing?'** Build up a sense of anticipation and eagerness before you start reading.
- Remember that the pictures are just as important as the words. Talk about what is happening in each picture. Some pages have no words, but you can talk about them: for example, **'What's happening in the picture? What is Jazz doing in the shed? What about the mouse?'**
- Remember to ask 'Why?' as well as 'What?' **'Why does Ollie go into the shed? Why do the cats go in?'**
- Use your voice to build up the anticipation of what might happen as each of the animals enters the shed (pages 7, 9 and 11).
- It's good to encourage the child to guess what might happen next. Try this before turning to page 12. **'I wonder what will happen now ...'**
- Enjoy the ending. Show how to react to the events. **'Oh no! Look what has happened to the leaves!'** (page 13). Encourage the child to join in: **'I wonder what's happened to the mouse?'**
- Point out what happens in the next-door garden (pages 2, 3, 5, 12, 13).
- Relate the story to things the child has done at home, in the park or at nursery school: for example, helping in the garden, making piles of leaves or planting things. Discuss the behaviour of cats and dogs.

## Book knowledge

**CLL 4** knowing about books and print

- When you are reading the story, talk about what you are doing. Show the child the cover and how to turn the pages and read the words.
- Use words like **'cover', 'front', 'back', 'pages', 'words'** and **'pictures'**.
- Ask the child to help you to read the story. He or she can hold the book or turn the pages for you or point to where you should start reading.
- Point to the words as you read them aloud. This shows that, in English, print is read from left to right.
- Occasionally ask the child to do the pointing for you. Don't worry if he or she gets it wrong. Just show the child again how you do it and get on with the story.