

Notes for parents and other helpers

Enjoying and talking about the story

CLL 1 listening and responding to stories; **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. Talk about the child's own experiences of playing hide and seek – and the best places to hide. Build a sense of anticipation before you start reading.
- Encourage the child to guess what will happen next. This story invites the child to join the hunt for Ollie and to guess who is in each hiding place before turning the page.
- Use your voice to make the questions sound like questions – and use facial expression too. Encourage the child to respond to the questions before you turn the page. Sound surprised as each toy is revealed.
- Talk about what is happening in each picture: for example, what the children are doing.
- Encourage the child to look closely at each picture, especially the one on page 11. Ask, **'What can Jazz see in the mirror?'** Then ask the child to predict how the story will end.
- On page 13, talk about where Jazz might have hidden.
- Relate the events to the child's own experiences of playing hide and seek. **'Where would you hide?'**, **'Did Ollie have a good hiding place?'**

Book knowledge

CLL 4 knowing about books and print

- Talk about what you do when reading – such as starting at the front of the book, turning the pages, reading the words. Use words like **'cover'**, **'front'**, **'back'**, **'pages'**, **'words'** and **'pictures'**.
- Ask the child to help you to read the story by holding the book for you, turning the pages or showing you where to start.
- Point to the words as you read them aloud, showing the child that it is these black squiggly things that we read. But still read the book as a meaningful story – don't fall into the trap of reading like a robot!
- Following the words with your finger also shows that, in English, print is read from left to right – and that we read the left page before the right.
- Sometimes ask the child to point for you. Don't worry if he or she gets this wrong. Just show the child again how you do it and get on with enjoying the story.