

Notes for parents and other helpers

Enjoying and talking about the story

CLL 1 listening and responding to stories; **CLL 4** understanding story elements

- Remember: the most important thing is to have fun and enjoy the story!
- Make sure you are both in the mood for a story before you begin.
- Read the title and discuss the cover. Does the child ever say, '*I can do that!*': if so, when? Build a sense of anticipation before you start reading.
- Point out the words in the speech bubbles (pages 3, 6 and 9). Sound eager when reading Ollie's words.
- Discuss the events shown in the pictures, what Jazz does and what happens when Ollie tries. Ask 'why' questions too: for example, '**Why are they making cakes?**', '**Why does Ollie want to try?**'
- Encourage the child to use the pattern of the story to make predictions: at pages 3, 5, 9 and 11 ask, '**What will happen next?**'
- Draw the child's attention to the characters' expressions and discuss their feelings. '**Poor Ollie! How do you think he feels?**'
- Discuss the surprise at the end of the story.
- Relate the events to the child's own experience of trying new things or copying an older child. Stress that it is good to try new things as long as they are not dangerous and that we learn by 'having a go', for example: '**Ollie will learn to skate one day – he's just too young at the moment.**'

Book knowledge

CLL 4 knowing about books and print

- When you read the story, talk about what you are doing – starting at the front, turning the pages, reading the words. Use words like '**cover**', '**front**', '**back**', '**pages**', '**words**' and '**pictures**'.
- Ask the child to help you by holding the book, turning the pages or showing you where to start reading.
- Point to the words as you read them aloud, whilst still reading them meaningfully: don't read like a robot! Show the child that it is the black squiggly things called '**words**' that we read and that, in English, words are read from left to right. Point out 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 to do it and continue to enjoy the story.