

Fun with *The Silly Chicken*

- * After you have read this story together, you might want to talk about it with your children. Discussing the story helps children to deepen their understanding of it.
- * There are lots of things in this story that you can talk about with your children, for example:
 - What part did he or she like best? Why was this the best part? Each time you read the story, you might ask this question again. Your child's answer may change with each reading.
 - Does your child agree that the man was clever to teach the chicken how to speak? Why or why not?
 - The people pack up their "most precious things" and began to run away from the earth? Ask your child what his or her most precious thing is. Why did he or she choose this? (You might have to explain that "precious" means something that is very important to us.)

This kind of question has no wrong answers! They will encourage your children to think about the story in their own way, and help them feel confident about expressing themselves.

Patterns of Repetition

- * When reading *The Silly Chicken*, you will notice that there is a pattern to the story. There are a number of phrases that repeat and have a similar pattern. This repetition of words helps your child remember the story and learn the language of books. After one or more readings, your child will be able to join you as you read the story.
- * Encourage your child to help you to tell the story. Point to the words and have the child say them with you as you are reading, especially the sections that repeat. Children feel as if they are reading along too! This will build confidence and your child will enjoy the predictable repetition.
- * If you are listening to the CD version of the story, you can recite along as the reader repeats phrases that are said over and over again. Or have your child repeat phrases with you as you read. Some examples of repeat sentences in the story are:

"You made us run from one town to another."

"You made us run through the fields and into the woods and across the meadows!"

"You made us run up the mountains and down the mountains."

Learning Opposites

- * Using pieces of paper large enough for your child to draw on, discuss words that are opposite in meaning with your child. Have your child help you. Here are some examples:

up and down
come and go
front and back
day and night
wet and dry

- * Print both words on the paper and have your child draw what they look like underneath the words. This helps children to remember what the words say. Do this for about five sets of opposites.
- * Point to a drawing and then each word it illustrates and have your child say the words. Children will feel as if they are reading the words when they say them.
- * Tape the paper on a wall near the kitchen table so that you can talk about them when you are having a snack or a meal. Or put them near your child's bed so you can read them before going to sleep. Make sure you place it low enough so that your child can see the print easily.



Visit your local library - it has hundreds of books for children of all ages, and friendly staff on hand waiting to help you.



“Retelling the Story”

- * Make simple drawings or find pictures from a magazine of a chicken, a man and other characters in the story.
- * Cut out the characters and have your child use them to retell the story.
- * You can even glue the cut-out characters to cardboard and sticks to make puppets out of them.
- * Your child might enjoy drawing scenery for a stage to enhance the telling. Retelling the story helps children remember it.

