

# The Flying Elephant

## Before reading

- Read the title to the children. Ask them to guess whether the elephant is real and what is making it fly.
- Look briefly through the story to confirm the children's ideas.

## During reading

- Ask the children to read the story. Praise and encourage them while they read, and prompt as necessary.

**Observing** Check that the children:

- read the high frequency words with confidence
- are aware of the reason the elephant ended in the playground.

## Group and independent reading activities

### Text level work

**Objective** To re-tell stories, giving the main points in sequence.

- Sit with the children in a circle, and ask them to tell you what happened in the story. Each child, in turn, contributes one sentence or statement, following on from the previous statement.

**Observing** Do the children use their own words, or do they use sentences remembered from the story?

### Sentence level work

**Objective** To predict words from preceding words in sentences and investigate the sorts of words that "fit", suggesting appropriate alternatives, i.e. that make sense.

- Write several sentences from the story on the board, leaving out the last word.
- Ask the children to read the sentences and write a word at the end that makes sense of the sentence. Some children may need to refer to the story. Others may write alternative words from their own experiences.

**Observing** Do the children remember to end the sentences with full stops?

### **Word level work**

**Objective** To recognise the critical features of words, e.g. common spelling patterns.

- Write on the board: "The elephant was fat."
- Ask the children to listen to the sounds in the word "fat".
- Tell the children to look through the text and find other words that have the same "at" sound at the end, i.e. words that rhyme.
- Then ask them to add other words they know that have the same ending sound.

**Observing** Do the children remember any rhyming words from the story?

### **Speaking and listening activities**

**Objectives** Choose words with precision; take turns in speaking.

- Discuss the elephant in the story. Ask the children to explain why the elephant "flew".
- Can the children remember other incidents in earlier stories when a storm made something happen?

# Writing

**Objective** To use some of the elements of known stories to structure own writing .

- Write a story starter on the board: “There was a storm.”
- Discuss how the storm is described in the story. Ask the children for other suggestions to describe stormy weather.
- Discuss things that might happen in a storm.
- Ask the children to write their own story about a storm.

## **Cross-curricular link**

◀▶ Geography: Make observations about features in the environment