

The Weather Vane

Before reading

- Read the title and talk with the children about what a weather vane is, and where it is usually found.
- Look through the story and point out the words “building site”, “crane”, “photograph” and “weather vane”.

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 high frequency words with fluency
- use the picture clues and their knowledge of sounds to work out context words .

Group and independent reading activities

Text level work

Objective To become aware of character and dialogue, e.g. by role playing parts .

- Ask the children to take turns to be Wilf and Wilma. Encourage the other children to ask “Wilf” or “Wilma” questions about what they saw and did at the building site.

Observing

Do the children use their imaginations when thinking of questions, e.g. What was Dad’s idea? What did Wilma say to the man in the crane?

Sentence level work

Objective To use capital letters for names and the start of a sentence .

You will need to write these questions on the board:

Who went to the building site?

What did Dad do?

What did Wilf and Wilma do?

What would you do?

- Read and discuss the questions with the children.
- Ask them to write a sentence to answer each question.

Observing Do the children use capital letters for the start of their sentences, as well as for names?

Can the children answer without referring to the book?

Word level work

Objective To secure identification, spelling and reading of initial, final and medial letter sounds in simple words.

You will need letter cards or plastic letters and these word cards: man, van, cab.

- Ask the children to say the middle sounds in the words, then to use other letter sounds to replace the beginning and ending sounds to make new words.
- Ask the children which letter can be added to "van" to make another word in the story.
- Ask them to identify which words can be made into another word by adding "e".

Observing Do the children understand that adding "e" changes the vowel sound in words?

Speaking and listening activities

Objectives Choose words with precision; listen to other's reactions.

- Ask the children to describe what Wilma, Wilf and Dad are wearing at the building site. Discuss reasons for wearing certain things at different places.
- Ask individual children to imagine and describe what they would wear for different activities. The other children can try to guess what the activity is.

Writing

Objective To represent outlines of story plots using, e.g. captions, pictures, arrows.

- Discuss the outcome of the story.
- Ask the children: *What was the trick Wilf and Wilma played on their friends?*
- Explain that we only find out about the trick at the end of the story.
- Write a starter sentence, e.g. "Wilf and Wilma played a trick."
- Ask the children to draw four things that happen in the story and join them with arrows to show the right order.