

Talking While You Read

When you read together, talk with your child about the book. Talking develops your child's vocabulary and understanding of the book.

Choose a book with detailed pictures and of interest to your child. First, read the entire book to your child. Next, read the book again, stopping on every page or every other page to have a conversation using PEER:

Prompt your child to say something about the book, by asking a question. Ask **wh** questions (**who?** **what?** **when?** where? **why?** **how?**).

Evaluate your child's response.

Expand your child's response by rephrasing and adding information to it.

Repeat the prompt.

Use PEER with any book.



The Tale of Peter Rabbit

Excerpt from Beatrix Potter with example prompts.

Once upon a time there were four little rabbits, and their names were Flopsy, Mopsy, Cotton-tail and Peter. They lived with their mother in a sand-bank, underneath the root of a very big fir tree.

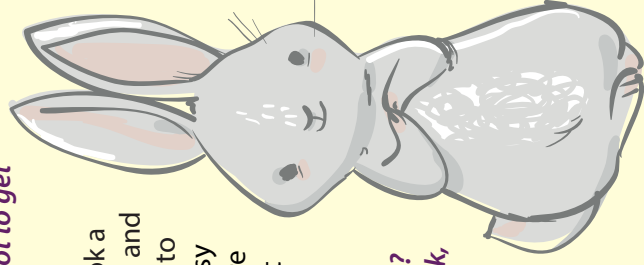
Why do you think the rabbits lived under a big tree?

"Now, my dears," said old Mrs. Rabbit one morning, "You may go into the fields or down the lane, but don't go into Mr. McGregor's garden. Your father had an accident there; he was put in a pie by Mrs. McGregor. Now run along and don't get into mischief. I am going out."

What does mischief mean? Why did Mrs. Rabbit tell her bunnies not to get into trouble?

Then old Mrs. Rabbit took a basket and her umbrella and went through the wood to the baker's. Flopsy, Mopsy and Cotton-tail who were good little bunnies went down the lane together to gather blackberries.

What does gather mean? Which bunny did not pick, or collect, blackberries?



But Peter who was very naughty, ran straight away to Mr. McGregor's garden and squeezed under the gate! First, he ate some lettuces and some French beans and then he ate some radishes. And then, feeling rather sick, he went to look for some parsley. But round the end of a cucumber frame, who should he meet but Mr. McGregor!

Why do you think Peter felt sick? How do you think Peter Rabbit felt when he saw Mr. McGregor?

Mr. McGregor was on his hands and knees planting out young cabbages, but he jumped up and ran after Peter, waving a rake and calling out "Stop thief!" Peter was most dreadfully frightened; he rushed all over the garden, for he had forgotten the way back to the gate. He rushed into a toolshed and jumped into a can.

Why did Mr. McGregor call Peter a thief? What do you think will happen to Peter next?