

Making Learning Fun for Children

Introduction



The worksheets in this chapter are based on the following areas:

- sharing stories,
- writing a description,
- adding -ing to words,
- reading weight, and
- following instructions.

For help with the worksheets, you can:

- call the NALA Freephone support line at 1800 20 20 65 on Monday to Friday between 10am and 4pm, or
- check out the Really Useful Guide to Words and Numbers Web site on www.rug.ie,

Reading: sharing stories

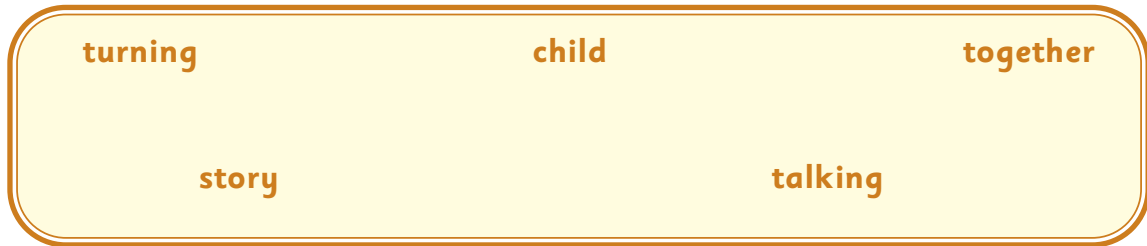
Sharing stories

Sharing stories and books with children at an early stage helps reading later on. Here are some ideas for sharing stories with babies and toddlers.

- Stories are not just found in books. Tell your child short, simple stories you know.
- Make up a story using your child's favourite toy.
- Make up your own picture books with pictures of your child's favourite things cut from old magazines.
- Read books by looking at and talking about the pictures. Many 'picture only' books are available for this age group.
- Find time to sit together and share books. Five minutes during the day can be enough.
- Show your child how to use books – how to hold them the right way up, go from left to right across the page and go from the front to the back of the book. You can run your finger under the words so your child's eyes get used to going from left to right.
- Give your child old magazines to practise turning pages.

Reading: sharing stories

See if you can fill in the missing words in the sentences using words from the box below.



1. Tell your _____ short simple stories.
2. Make up a _____ using your child's favourite toy.
3. Share books by _____ about the pictures.
4. Find time to sit _____ and share books.
5. Get your child to practise _____ the pages.

Writing: descriptions

One of the ways you can help children to talk and learn new words is to ask them to listen and name the sounds they hear around them. They might hear, for example, a tap running, a radio, birds or animals. When you are writing a description of a place, ask yourself a number of questions that will help you draw a picture with words.

Read the following description of a Chinese New Year.

Chinese New Year is a special holiday. Each year is a special animal year. 2006 is the year of the dog. 2007 will be the year of the pig.

There is a parade with a big dragon and people in costumes. The dragon leads people into a good new year. Many visitors go to the parade. There are loud noises and firecrackers. The air is full of smoke and the smell of gunpowder.

People say 'Gong Hay Fat Choy'. This means 'Happy New Year'. The New Year is a giant birthday party. Everyone is one year older that day. They give each other presents and play games. Parents give children money. The money is in a red envelope for good luck.

Chinese people make delicious food for the New Year. They put flowers in their homes. They visit their family and friends. This is my favourite holiday.

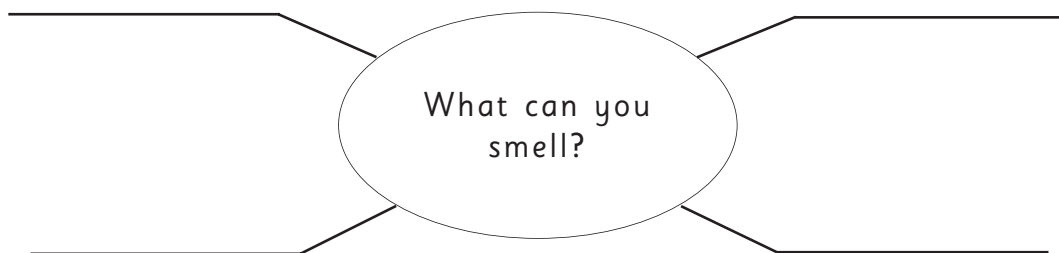
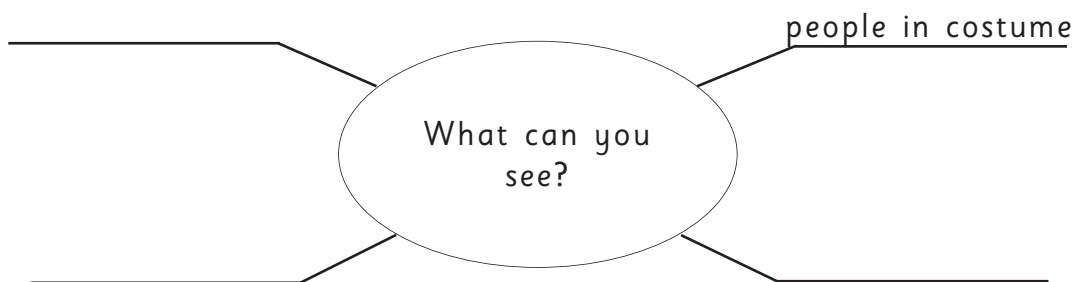
By Quan from China

Writing: descriptions

Quan's piece on China has a lot of description.

What can you see, hear or smell in the story?

Write in as many words as you can beside the questions.



Writing: descriptions

Look at the photograph.



Think about what you can see, hear and smell from looking at the picture.

Now see if you can write a description of the photograph.

Spelling: adding -ing to words

Some words end in the letters -ing. These are usually action words, or verbs. They describe an activity or something that is happening.

For example, the words 'walking', 'reading' and 'speaking' all describe activities and each one ends in -ing.

**See if you can add -ing to the words below.
The first one is done for you.**

1. cook cooking
2. buy _____
3. weigh _____
4. mix _____
5. eat _____

However, if the action word ends in the letter **-e**, you nearly always have to drop the **-e** before adding **-ing**.

For example, the word 'save' becomes 'saving' and the word 'bite' becomes 'biting'.

**See if you can add -ing to the words below.
The first one is done for you.**

1. have having
2. bake _____
3. measure _____
4. use _____
5. sieve _____

Reading: cooking with children

Cooking is one way children can learn while having fun.

When cooking, children can learn:

- words about cooking - chop, slice, cream, sieve, mix.
- words about size and temperature – large, hot, cold.
- how to measure in litres and grams.
- how to read a recipe and to do things in order.
- how to plan, make a shopping list and learn about money.

On the next page, you'll be learning how to make gingerbread cookies.

What ingredients do you think you'll need to make these cookies?

Reading: weights

Here is a list of ingredients you will need to make gingerbread cookies.

- 350 g plain flour
- 1/4 teaspoon of salt
- 2 dessertspoons of ground ginger
- 75 g butter or margarine
- 50 g sugar
- 3 dessertspoons of Golden Syrup
- 2 small eggs

Beside each ingredient, you can see a number. This tells you the measurement of each item. So you need 350 g of plain flour. The letter 'g' stands for the weight 'gram', so you need 350 g of plain flour, 75 g of butter and 50 g of sugar.

Weight is measured by using a measuring scales. Most modern scales are digital, but sometimes you will see scales that look like this. You need to look carefully to see where the marker is to find out the weight of the item. In the picture below, the weight shown is 100 g.

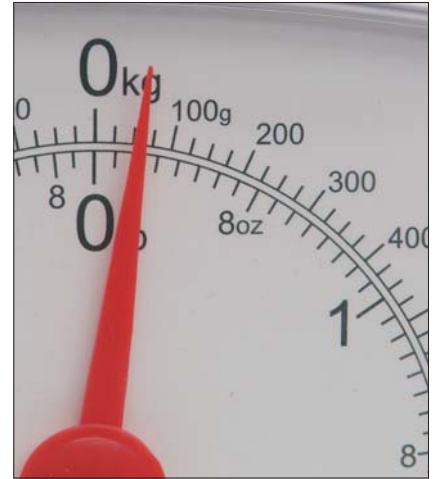


Reading: weights

Look at the pictures of weighing scales below and write down the weights they are measuring. The first one is done for you.



1. 150g



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



5. _____

Reading: following instructions

The instructions and pictures below show how to make gingerbread cookies. The instructions are in the right order but the pictures are not.

Match the instructions with the pictures by drawing lines. The first one is done for you.

Mix the butter, sugar and syrup in a bowl.

Add the beaten eggs.

Sieve in flour, salt and ginger.

Roll out the mixture with a rolling pin.

Cut into shapes.

Bake for 20 to 25 minutes.



Word quiz

Read the clues and fill in the answers.

The numbers after each clue tell you how many letters are in that word.

recipe

child

wrong

favourite

back

describe

1. Opposite of front (4)

2. Say what someone or something is like (8)

3. Another word for kid (5)

4. Not right (5)

5. Liked more than others (9)

6. Instructions for cooking food (6)