

# What Happens Next?



## Overview

Nature provides a rich environment to explore speech and language. Pairing this with stories creates an exciting opportunity to introduce new contexts and vocabulary.

## Activities

Stories are great for introducing nature to children and outdoor story experiences can enhance reading for pleasure. Create a cosy corner for reading together outdoors. Think about shade and shelter to provide comfort on hot, wet or windy days and add a picnic rug, blanket or even a hammock. Think about the settings of stories and try to read books in their context. The Gruffalo comes to life in a whole new way when read under a tree or in a local woodland.



## Equipment

- Some outdoor classics:
- Not a Stick by Antoinette Portis
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
- The Owl Babies by Martin Waddell
- Pudding by Emma Perry

## Key Questions

*Who is this?*

*Where are they?*

*What do you think will happen next? (At page turns, but also at the end of a familiar story.)*

## The Benefits

- Play – Choosing, relaxing, reflection and role play
- Literacy – Talking, listening, sequencing, predicting

## Progression in Learning

- Use natural materials to create transient art pictures of characters or recreate scenes from your stories.
- Introduce new stories regularly to keep children's interest.