

## Inferencing

Encouraging children to search for visual clues and to make predictions is crucial in the development of their comprehension skills. This comprehension skill is called inferencing.

Some children find it difficult to draw correct inferences, particularly when they are required to ignore the 'red herring' and focus on the main idea.



For example: When asked "How do we know this person has a cold?" we want our children to say "because they are sneezing and there is medicine on the table" **not** "because it is cold outside".

For example: When asked "How do we know someone has been swimming?" we want our children to say "because there are wet bather son the washing line" **not** "there is a duck swimming in the pool".



To support your child's inferencing, you can talk to them about being a good detective. Using a magnifying glass can be a playful way to have your children look for and identify important clues. You can encourage them to make inferences by using language such as:

"My guess is... because..."

"I think that...because..."

"I predict...because..."

At home you can look at the front cover of a book and talk about 'who' the main character is, 'where' the story might take place and 'when' it might be happening. Look for clues that support your child's prediction e.g. in the title of the story or the picture on the front cover. As you read the story you can check their predictions and discuss them. For example, "I first thought the story was about... but it was actually about..."