



# Dad Gets the Cat



by Sue Graves and Mike Byrne

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# Story trail



Start

Start at the beginning of the story trail. Ask your child to retell the story in their own words, pointing to each picture in turn to recall the sequence of events.







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# Independent Reading

This series is designed to provide an opportunity for your child to read on their own. These notes are written for you to help your child choose a book and to read it independently.

In school, your child's teacher will often be using reading books which have been banded to support the process of learning to read. Use the book band colour your child is reading in school to help you make a good choice. *Dad Gets the Cat* is a good choice for children reading at Pink A in their classroom to read independently.

The aim of independent reading is to read this book with ease, so that your child enjoys the story and relates it to their own experiences.

## About the book

The family cat is always getting into dangerous situations. Luckily, Dad is on hand to save her.

## Before reading

Help your child to learn how to make good choices by asking:

"Why did you choose this book? Why do you think you will enjoy it?"

Look at the cover together and ask: "What do you think the story will be about?" Support your child to think about what they already know about cats: "What sort of things do cats like to do?"

Read the title aloud and ask: "Why might Dad need to get the cat?"

Remind your child that they can try to sound out the letters to make a word if they get stuck.

Decide together whether your child will read the story independently or read it aloud to you. When books are short, as at Pink A, your child may wish to do both!

## During reading

If reading aloud, support your child if they hesitate or ask for help by telling the word. Remind your child of what they know and what they can do independently.

If reading to themselves, remind your child that they can come and ask for your help if stuck.

## After reading:

Support understanding of the story by asking your child to tell you what the story is about.

Help your child think about the messages in the book that go beyond the story and ask: "Do you think the cat looks different on the last page? Do you think the cat will go and climb somewhere else? Why/why not?"

Give your child a chance to respond to the story: "Did you have a favourite part? What would you do if we had a cat that kept climbing into dangerous places?"

Use the story trail to encourage your child to retell the story in the right sequence, in their own words.

## Extending learning

Help your child understand the story structure by using the same sentence structure with a different animal as the main character.

A mouse that hides in tiny spaces (Dad gets the mouse) or a dog that keeps hiding shoes (Mum gets the dog), for example.

Your child's teacher will be encouraging accurate finger pointing at Pink A. Help your child learn to recognise and find commonly used words. Ask them to point to each of the words in turn on each page, starting with *Dad* and then *cat* as these words are the easiest to find.

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