



GROUP 5

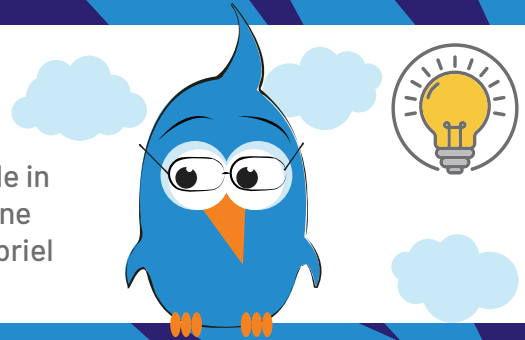
Born 2022
Book: January 2026

The Elephant and the Sea

by Ed Vere

Meet Gabriel, a young elephant who lives in a village by the sea.

Gabriel dreams of joining the lifeboat crew and helping people in the water, but he's too big to fit into their lifeboat. But then one stormy, windy day, the lifeboat crew run into trouble. Can Gabriel save the day?



How talking about the past helps language skills.



At the start of our story Gabriel is an old elephant. He tells us the story of what happened when he was young.

By the time your little one turns 3, they may have already started to talk to you about things that have happened in the past.

This can help to unlock more complex language as they move beyond naming and commenting on things in the here and now.

Watch the short video to see how talking in the past tense can be good for your child's language learning.



www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/articles/zbwdkty

Make a Cardboard Box Boat



Go on your own sailing adventure in a cardboard box boat. Find a box large enough for your child to sit in and encourage them to pretend it is a boat. You could decorate your box or add sails to it too.

Playing imaginary, pretend or roleplay games with your child is a fun way for them to explore the world and express themselves. Imaginative play helps to improve their speech, language and communication skills. It can also help them to learn more words, the meaning of the words and how to use the words when talking to others.



www.bedslutonchildrenshealth.nhs.uk/speech-language-and-communication/the-importance-of-play/#imagine

A Sailor Went to Sea, Sea, Sea

*A sailor went to sea, sea, sea,
to see what he could see, see, see.
But all that he could see, see, see,
was the bottom of the deep blue sea, sea, sea.*

www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/articles/z69vhbk

You could use your cardboard box boat as you sing this song. Add a cardboard tube telescope and ask your child what they can see from their boat?