



What to do

Listening & Speaking

*IMPORTANT Parent or Carer –
Please check that you are happy with any weblinks or use of the internet.*

Our focus today is speaking and listening – expressing ourselves in spoken language.

1. Listen to a story

Watch and listen to the story of **The Ugly Duckling** being told in this storytelling video:
https://player.hamilton-trust.org.uk/story_telling_display.php?cid=192

2. Respond to the story

- Talk about the story. *What happened in the story? Why were the other ducklings unkind to the ugly duckling? How were they different to him? How did the duckling feel? What could we say to cheer him up? What happened in the end?*
- Discuss what you think about the fact that the ducklings were unkind because he was different to them? *Is that a good way to behave?*
- Discuss the question: *Was the duckling really a baby duck?* He grew into a swan so he must have been a cygnet (or a baby swan). Discuss how the mix up might have happened. Compare [swan](#) eggs to [duck](#) eggs.
- Help your child compare the images of the cygnet and duckling below on [Duckling and Cygnet](#) below. Describe how they are similar and different. Children can label features of the birds which are different, e.g. *long neck, short neck*.

Try these Fun-Time Extras

- Talk about the different sounds that the duckling and cygnet made in the story. Try making the different sounds. Listen to other bird sounds on:
<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/bird-songs/what-bird-is-that/>
- Look out for nesting birds and newly hatched water birds in ponds and lakes. Can you spot the baby birds following their parents? Discuss the similarities and differences between the adults and their young.
- Make puppets with your hands quacking/honking like beaks and retell the story.

Duckling and Cygnet

