POCOYO

TYPE OF LANGUAGE

• Standard British English

• Narrative

GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY

• There are numerous episodes based around specific topics, e.g. a party, a game, an animal.

• The narrator tells the story using the present tenses. He describes what is happening, e.g. Pocoyo is playing with Pato in the garden.

• He asks a lot of questions, mostly to the viewers e.g. What should Pocoyo do to make the bird feel happy? But also directly to the characters, What are you up to now Pocoyo?

• The narrator uses a lot of language to speculate about what is happening, e.g. It looks like…I think…Maybe the aliens know what to do.

COMMON WORDS & PHRASES

• Hello/good morning

• Can any of you tell me/guess what Pocoyo is carrying?

• What a good/wonderful idea!

http://www.rtve.es/letsclan
What’s this?
Who/What do you think is…?
I wonder what could be inside the box.
Oh, dear
I think/I don’t think Pocoyo wants to play.
It looks as if/like they are having a party.
Well done!
Don’t you want to know what they are doing?
What are you going to do now?
I see. You’re going to play with the ball.
Hooray!
Goodbye. See you soon!

TIPS

If you are able to do the following ideas in English then great. If you can’t or don’t feel confident in doing so, you can still aid your child’s learning by doing them in Spanish.

• Encourage your child to recognise the situation Pocoyo is in and the things that are happening around him. Ask questions like what is Pocoyo doing? Why? Who else can you see?

• The narrator tries to actively involve the audience. Encourage your child to join in and answer the narrator’s questions, e.g. can any of you tell me where Pocoyo is?

• As there is a considerable amount of speculation, it is easy to get your child involved through guessing, e.g. I wonder what Pocoyo is looking for. Ask your child to predict the answers. Then as you watch, check to see if they were right.

• If you are watching online, stop halfway through. Summarise what’s happened so far. Use gesture and facial expression to reinforce meaning (e.g. Pocoyo’s angry.).

• Each episode has a theme and contains an identifiable lexical set. Try to pick out the group of words for that episode, e.g. in the episode A Surprise for Pocoyo there is a lot of vocabulary related to parties (party, surprise, cake, hat, balloons, decorations, dancing, birthday). Later you can review these with your child. Try to be creative and make games where you can use the language, e.g. in one of the episodes, Pocoyo has a surprise in a box and the narrator is talking about what might be in the box. You could play a similar kind of game where you put something in a box for your child to guess what it is.
• Try to notice the natural language used to express ideas, e.g. they’re having a ball (as opposed to they are having a good time). This kind of natural language comes up a lot and is more authentic than the language children are usually taught at school. Noticing this kind of language will help children to be flexible and understand that there are many different ways to express the same thing.

• Make the topic personal to your child. At the end of the episode, talk about what happened. Ask them questions about their experiences and preferences e.g. do you like playing ball games? What’s your favourite one?

• Review what was seen in the programme and ask your child, do you remember…? Research has shown that staged review helps memorisation and is most effective if reviewed after about 10 minutes, a day, a week and then a month.

• There are a series of Pocoyo books available based on the episodes. There is a Step Into Reading series which is aimed at children beginning to read in English. You could use these books in a number of ways. You could use the pictures to retell the story, talk about how the characters feel, what happens next, talk about their favourite part of the story and so on.