



Rocket Cards

Use with:

Handa's Surprise

By Eileen Browne



1. Pick a Rocket Card to focus on today.



2. Watch the matching video on the Language Launchpad YouTube channel.



Rocket Card
Use with 'Handa's Surprise'

Get ready

When? Before reading

Find a **special place**, which is comfortable and free from distractions such as TV or phones.



Pick a **time** when you and your child are **calm**, but **alert**.



Watch the '**Find a special place**' video

Watch the '**Introduce story time**' video



Rocket Card
Use with 'Handa's Surprise'

Get them involved



When? Whilst reading

Handa's Surprise has a repetitive structure: "Will she like the... or the...".

Pause before naming the fruit and look at your child expectantly. Do they name the fruit?

Ask your child to match the fruit in the picture to fruit you have in the house.



Watch the '**Get them involved**' video



Rocket Card
Use with 'Handa's Surprise'

Make it about them



When? Whilst reading

Support your child to notice the things in the story that are familiar to them, and the things that are different.

Ideas for discussion:

"Which of these fruits have you tried?"

"Which ones are new for us?"

"When have you been surprised like Handa?"

"Does our town/village/city look like Handa's village?"

"What's the same?"

"What's different?"

"Are there any new animals that we've not seen before?"



Watch the 'Make it about them' video



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Ask questions



When? Whilst reading

Ask these questions while on the appropriate page (you don't need to say the words in brackets).

Focus on the questions that are **suitable for your child**. You can miss out ones that you think are not appropriate. They get more difficult as you go down the page. **Remember to think of your own questions too.**

What can you see? (On any page)

What is happening? (On any page, especially those where the animals take the fruit).

Who was surprised? (At the end) ***Why?***

Did Handa know what had happened to her fruit? (Go back and check the pictures on each page if needed).



Watch the '**Ask questions**' video



Rocket Card
Use with 'Handa's Surprise'

Retell the story together



When? After reading the story at least once

- Download the Handa's Surprise story cards from the website.

Support your child to put our story cards in order and use them to help tell the story again.

Encourage your child to **be the storyteller** by asking them questions, giving sentence starters and language demonstrations. **We've given you some ideas** for how to support your child. Please use your own ideas too.

Remember! **Pause regularly** to allow them to give their ideas, and **respond positively** to what they say and do.

Try to focus on these three main events:

1. Handa's basket was full of fruit.

Unfinished sentence: "Wow! Handa's basket is full of ___"

2. Handa's basket was empty.

Comment: "Uh oh. Something happened to the fruit"

Question: "What happened to Handa's fruit?"

3. Handa's basket was full of tangerines.

Unfinished sentence: "Handa and Akeyo were ___ (surprised)".

Extra retell ideas:

Act out the story together using toy animals, toy or real fruit and a basket.



Watch the 'Retell – Handa's Surprise' video



Rocket Card
Use with 'Handa's Surprise'

Focus on important words from the story



When? After reading the story

Pick out a **word** from the story and **play a game** to **help your child understand** the word. Here are some of our ideas, but don't forget to **pick out your own words** and add your own ideas.

Make sure you **repeat** the word lots of times in different sentences.

Ideas for learning the words **full** and **empty**:

Demonstrate these two words together, as they are opposites.

- Ask your child to help you **find things around the house** that are **full** and **empty**. How many of each can you find? Look in cupboards, drawers, boxes, the fridge etc. To make it harder, introduce the idea of something being 'almost' full or 'almost' empty.
- Play a game emptying and filling a container with toys, or objects like dry pasta. Who can make them full or empty quickest?
- Play the full and empty game using our board (available to download from the website).



Watch the '**Focus on important words**' video



Rocket Card
Use with 'Handa's Surprise'

Focus on important words from the story



When? After reading the story

Pick out a **word** from the story and **play a game** to **help your child understand** the word. Here are some of our ideas, but don't forget to pick out your own words and add your own ideas.

Make sure you **repeat** the word lots of times in different sentences.

Word from story	Ideas to help your child learn the word
basket	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take it in turns to give each other instructions to put things into or take things out of a basket.• Discuss different types of basket e.g. Handa's fruit basket, a supermarket shopping basket, a basket you have at home.
surprise	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take it in turns to try to surprise each other, or role play with a teddy or doll. Make sure your child knows that a surprise is something you didn't know would happen. Exaggerate facial expression and voice to show the surprise.• Plan a way to surprise a family member (e.g. on their birthday).



Watch the '**Focus on important words**' video