

## Did you know...



Children who can describe things and events, can have conversations about what is happening in books, and who can tell stories are better able to understand what they hear, and later, what they read. These are called “narrative skills.”

## Here's how...

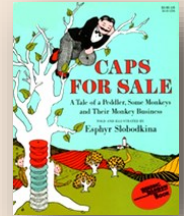


- ✦ Read books that have words or phrases that repeat. Encourage your child to say the repeated phrase with you each time.
- ✦ Re-read books so your child can become familiar with the story, making it easier to retell the story.
- ✦ Have your child retell the story.
- ✦ Encourage your child to tell you something from her own experience related to what happened in the book.
- ✦ Use puppets or props to tell the story to help your child remember it; have your child use props to help retell the story.
- ✦ Encourage your child to talk about the pictures in the book, even if what she says is not in the story. Ask open-ended questions (ones that cannot be answered with yes or no).
- ✦ Have your child draw pictures and ask her to tell you about them.
- ✦ Instead of asking your child how school was (Typical answer: “Good”), ask specific questions that require a more detailed answer. What was the best thing that happened today? What stories did the teacher share? What was something nice that you did for someone?

## Read

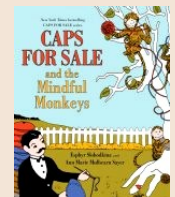
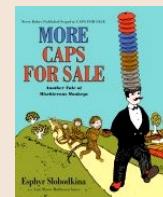
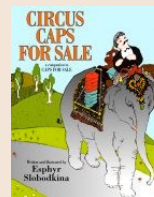


### **Caps for Sale, Esphyr Slobodkina**



This classic tale has been a favorite of millions of children over the years. They delight in following the peddler's efforts to outwit the monkeys and will ask to read it again and again. *Caps for Sale* is an excellent read-aloud book that includes repetition, patterns, and colors, and is perfect for helping your child develop early literacy skills.

Here are some other books by the author:



## Choose Books



### **Books that help build narrative skills:**

- Books with a repeated phrase
- Books that repeat part of the story
- Books that tell a tale that builds on itself
- Books where the events happen in an order
- Books with detailed illustrations
- Wordless picture books

Here are a few favorites:

*Big Smelly Bear*, by Britta Teckentrup

*The Little Red Hen*, by Byron Barton

*Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus*, by Mo Willems

*Interrupting Chicken*, by David Ezra Stein

*Chalk*, by Bill Thomson

## Talk

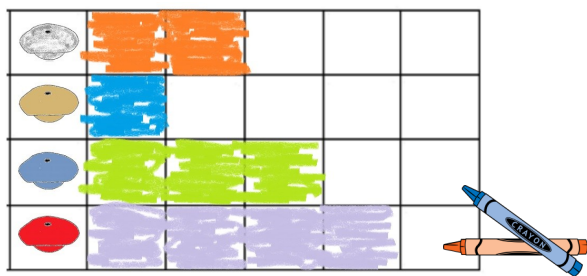


Storytelling is an art that you can practice with your child. In some countries they pass stories down from generation to generation by telling them instead of writing them. Have your child tell you a story about something that has happened to them. Encourage them to add details to the story by asking open-ended questions at the end of the story — who, what, when, where, why.

## Write



Teach your child how to make a graph that represents “how many.” How many of each color cap were in the story (red, brown, blue, checked)? How many of each toy are in your toybox (cars, blocks, balls, stuffed animals)? How many cloudy, sunny, or rainy days are there in this month? Start with a grid like the one below. Draw or write the items to count in the first row. Then let your child color in one box for each number of items. For more writing practice let him label the graph and items.



## Play



### Monkey See, Monkey Do

Children love to play “copy-me” games. Make a face, jump around, do a dance and so on. Everything you do your child must imitate. Then let your child take the lead, and imitate everything she does. Have fun, and let your child see you act silly with him.



## Sing



### Five Little Monkeys

*(Let your child act out this silly song)*

Five little monkeys jumping on the bed,  
One fell off and bumped his head.  
Mama called the Doctor and the Doctor said,  
"No more monkeys jumping on the bed!"

Four little monkeys jumping on the bed...  
Three little monkeys jumping on the bed...  
Two little monkeys jumping on the bed...  
One little monkey jumping on the bed...

No little monkeys jumping on the bed,  
None fell off and bumped their head.  
Mama called the Doctor and the Doctor said,  
"Put those monkeys back to bed!"

Hear this song at

[www.thelearninggroove.com/  
five-little-monkeys](http://www.thelearninggroove.com/five-little-monkeys)



## At your library...



Idaho Family Reading Week is an annual statewide celebration of reading as a family activity. The theme this year is “*Tell Me a Tale.*” Libraries across the state are planning fun events that celebrate family reading.

Ask your librarian about special events and programs planned for Family Reading Week, November 12—18, 2017.