



Age Group  
**Kinders**

# The Bookworm



From your  
local library  
and Idaho's Read  
to Me program

January 2013

## Narrative Skills

**Narrative Skills** are the ability to describe things and events, and tell stories. Helping your child develop these skills when she is young will help her understand what she hears, and later, what she reads. An example of a narrative skill is a child's ability to tell what happens at a birthday party or on a trip to the zoo.

### What can parents do to help build narrative skills?

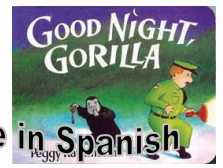
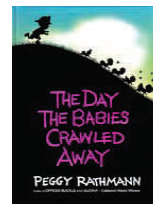
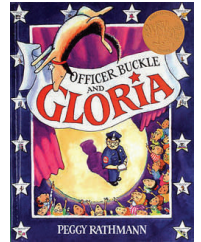
- Re-read books so that your child can become familiar with the story, making it easier to retell.
- Encourage your child to tell you something from her own experience related to what happened in the book.
- Encourage your child to retell the story.
- Encourage your child to talk about the pictures in 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 of the story and retell it.
- Encourage your child to tell his own stories. Ask questions such as, "What happens next?" "What does the dog in your story look like?"
- When your child shows you a drawing she made, say, "Tell me about your artwork." Encourage her to describe the colors and shapes, or what the characters are doing.

## Book of the Month

### *Officer Buckle and Gloria,* by Peggy Rathmann

Officer Buckle knows more about safety than anyone in the town of Napville, but whenever he tries to share his safety tips, nobody listens. Until, that is, the Napville Police Department buys a police dog named Gloria.

Officer Buckle and Gloria won the 1996 Caldecott award. Check out some other great books by Peggy Rathmann:



Available in Spanish

### Choosing quality books:

#### American Library Association (ALA) Awards

Though many picture books are considered high-quality for children, choosing award-winning books such as those sponsored by the ALA are a good way to begin introducing your child to the best children's literature.

**The Geisel Award** (Dr. Seuss) is presented each year to the best American book in English for beginning readers.

**The Caldecott Medal** is awarded each year to the artist of the best-illustrated American picture book for children.

Look for these gold or silver medals at your local library.



## More fun with *Officer Buckle and Gloria*

**Around the house...** Ask your child to think about some tips to keep your family safe around your home. Help her write a list of three to five Safety Tips and post on the refrigerator or other well-seen place.

**Arts and crafts...** Give your child some paper and some crayons, colored pencils, or washable markers, and ask him to draw a picture of his favorite part of the book. Ask him questions when he is finished. "Tell me about your drawing. Why is this your favorite part of the story? Can you tell me more about this part of your picture?"

**Talk about it...** Some words have many meanings, depending on how they are used. Here are some words in the story to talk about with your child: swivel, commands, roared, expression, imagination, shocked.



### Picture 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

Wordless picture books



## Song to sing with your child

### Make New Friends

Make new friends; but keep the old.

One is silver and the other is gold.

A circle is round; it has no end.

That's how long I want to be your friend.

A fire burns bright; it warms the heart.

We've been friends from the very start.

You help me, and I'll help you,  
And together we will see it through.

Across the land; across the sea.

Friends forever we will always be.



Listen to the tune at:  
[www.songsforteaching.com/folk/makenewfriends.php](http://www.songsforteaching.com/folk/makenewfriends.php)

### What your library can do for you...

You can read hundreds of free online books with your child by visiting your local library's website and clicking on Tumblebooks™.



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