



Age Group  
**Kinders**

# The Bookworm



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

October 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.

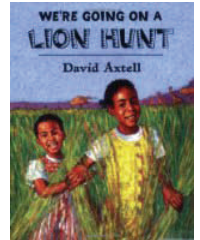
### What can parents do to help build narrative skills?

- 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

### *We're Going on a Lion Hunt,* by David Axtell

Based on the traditional tale, "We're Going on a Bear Hunt," this version is set in the African savanna. The colorful pictures are full of details and adventure, and your child will love "reading" the story with you again and again.



Here are some other picture books illustrated by David Axtell:



*Fruits, A Caribbean Counting Rhyme,* by Valerie Bloom



*New Baby,* by Valerie Bloom



*The Ice Bear's Cave,* by Mark Haddon

### More books like *We're Going on a Lion Hunt*:

*We're Going on a Bear Hunt,* by Michael Rosen

*Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain,* by Verna Aardema

*There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly,* (there are many versions of this story)

*If You Give a Mouse a Cookie,* by Laura Numeroff

*Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes,* by Eric Litwin

## More fun with *We're Going on a Lion Hunt...*

**Get up and move...** This is a great story to act out. Begin by marching in place. Help your child create motions for each part of the story. Use lots of expressions and sounds.

**Hide and seek...** Set up a lion hunt for your child by hiding a small stuffed or plastic lion (or any object) somewhere in the house or yard. Lead your child to the lion using the words "over," "under," "through," "around," etc. Example: First walk *through* the kitchen. Now crawl *under* the table and walk *over* the rug to the living room. Walk *around* the coffee table and see if you can find the lion.

**Where in the world...** Help your child find Africa on a world map or globe. You can find maps, globes, and children's books about Africa at your local library. You can also find books about lions and other animals that are just right for your kindergartener.



A good website to help your child see more interesting places and animals is <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com>

## Counting Rhyme Game

### ONE LITTLE LION

One little lion went out one day  
on the grassy plains, to run and play.  
He thought it was so much fun  
he called some friends,  
who came on the run.

Two little giraffes went out one day  
on the grassy plains, to run and play.  
They thought it was so much fun  
they called more friends,  
who came on the run.

Continue with this counting rhyme, adding more and more safari animals, such as 3 zebras, 4 rhinos, and 5 elephants. You can have your child act this out in person, or with toy animals or flannelboard cutouts.

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

Don't have access to a computer? Most libraries do not require a library card in order to use the computers. Some even offer free computer classes.

### 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

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