



For ages
3-5

The Bookworm



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

January 2011

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.

Books That Build Narrative Skills:

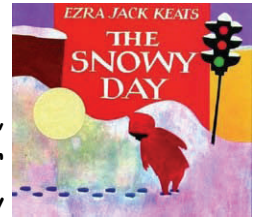
- Books with a repeated phrase
- Books that repeat part of the story
- Books that tell a tale that builds on itself
- Books where the events happen in an order

What can parents do to help build narrative skills?

- Encourage your child to say the repeated phrase together.
- Re-read books so that 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 it.

Book of the Month

The Snowy Day, by Ezra Jack Keats



In this Caldecott Award book, a small boy named Peter experiences the joy of a snowy day. This book was first published in 1962 and has been loved by many generations of children. As your child grows, you may enjoy sharing *Whistle for Willie* and *Peter's Chair*, which are sequels to *The Snowy Day*.



Ezra Jack Keats was one of the most important children's literature authors and illustrators of the 20th Century. He was one of the first children's book authors to introduce and celebrate characters of different races in his stories.



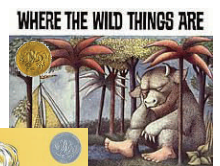
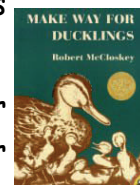
Choosing quality books: Caldecott Medal



The Caldecott Medal is awarded each year to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children.

Though there are many picture books that are considered high-quality for children, choosing award-winning books such as Caldecott Medal books or Caldecott Honor books are a good way to begin introducing your child to the best children's literature.

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



More fun with *The Snowy Day*

Talk about it... Here are some questions to help your child build narrative skills:

- Where do you think the story takes place? What are some clues?
- What are some ways you are like Peter?
- Do you remember waking up to a snowy world outside your window? What did you do?
- Why do you think the snowball in Peter's pocket wasn't there when he checked before bed? Can you think of a way to save a snowball?

Science connections... If you've got snow on hand, let your child scoop some up to make some snowballs and see how long they last. Have your child use an ice cream scooper so that each snowball is the same size. Set each snowball in a pan or dish to catch the drips and then place them in different places around the room - a sunny windowsill, in a cabinet, near a heating vent. Ask your child which snowball she thinks will melt first? Visit the snowballs every 20-30 minutes and talk with your child about what is happening to each one. Why did some snowballs melt faster than others?



Fingerplay Five Snowmen

(To the tune of "Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed") Match actions to words

5 happy snowmen riding on a sled,
1 fell off and bumped his head.



Frosty called the doctor
and the doctor said,
"No more snowmen riding on
that sled!"

Repeat with 4, 3, 2, 1



Song Snowkey Pokey

(Sung to the tune of the Hokey Pokey)

You put your right mitten in,
you take your right mitten out,
you put your right mitten in
and you shake it all about.

You do the snowkey pokey
and you turn yourself around.
That's what it's all about.

Additional verses:

You put your left mitten in . . .

You put your right boot in . . .

You put your left boot in . . .

You put your hat in . . .

You put your snowself in . . .



You can hear the Hokey Pokey song on *The Best of Wee Sing* CD, copyright 2002.

What your library can do for you...

Look for *The Best of Wee Sing*, as well as lots of other great music CDs for kids, at your local public library!

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