



For ages
**Birth
to 2**

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.

What can parents do to help build Narrative Skills with babies and toddlers?

Books:

- Re-tell stories with your child using puppets or props.
- Talk about what is going on in the pictures.

Everyday:

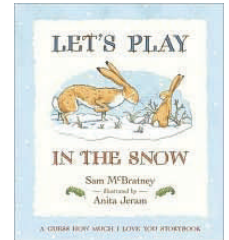
- Ask your baby a question and then answer for her. "Your diaper needs changing; let's do that right now, OK? Good! We're going to change your diaper."
- Ask your toddler to tell you about something that happened to him today; ask for more details so he can expand on his narrative.
- Use the language that is most comfortable for you!

Good Books to Build Narrative Skills:

- Books with a repeated phrase
- Books with repeated parts of the story
- Books where events happen in an order
- Books with photos of babies, animals, and everyday objects
- Any book! You can find lots of things in books to talk about with your child, no matter which book you choose.

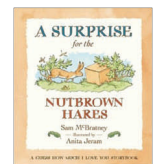
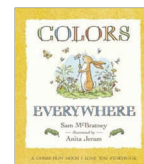
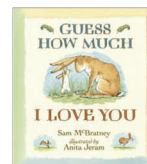
Book of the Month

Let's Play in the Snow,
by Sam McBratney (A
Guess How Much I Love
You Storybook)



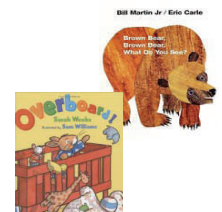
The Nutbrown Hares are playing I Spy as they hop through the snow. They spy something that belongs to a tree, a bird, a spider, and even something that belongs to Little Nutbrown Hare that is only there when the sun comes out. But what does Big Nutbrown Hare spy that belongs to him and is his favorite thing of all?

More Guess How Much I Love You Storybooks



Repeated phrases:

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? Bill Martin, Jr. and Eric Carle
Moo Moo, Brown Cow, Jakki Wood



Repeated parts of the story:

Overboard, Sarah Weeks
Mrs. Wishy Washy, Jow Cowley

Events happen in an order:

The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Eric Carle
Goodnight Gorilla, Peggy Rathman

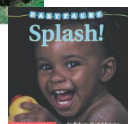


Photographs:

Animal Babies: A Counting Book, by Daniel Moreton



Splash! (Baby Faces series) Roberta Grobel Intrater



More fun with *Let's Play in the Snow*

Math Connection... Which one belongs? Being able to group things that are alike is an important skill for young children to develop. Collect some objects from a nature walk, such as leaves, nuts, and twigs. Mix these with other objects, such as small toys or kitchen items. Ask your toddler, Which of these belongs to a tree? Does a leaf belong to a tree? Does a spoon belong to a tree? Help him put correct objects in a separate basket or container. Have fun with other groups, such as Things That Belong to Kitty, Things That Belong to Mommy, Things That Belong to the Kitchen...



Sharing books with your baby...

- Pick the best time. The best time is when you and baby are in a good mood.
- Show baby the book. Point to the pictures and talk in your most exciting voice.
- Talk and have fun. Remember to touch and love baby the whole time.
- Watch what baby does. Let baby play with the book if he or she wants to and stop if baby gets upset.
- Share a book with baby every day. Even just a few minutes is important.

Rhyme for Baby

(lay baby on your lap)

Snowflakes falling on the ground,
(Wiggle fingers from high to low)

Snowflakes falling all around,
(Wiggle fingers around baby's body)

Snowflakes falling, gently, see,
(Wiggle fingers where baby can see)

Snowflakes fall on you and me!
(Wiggle fingers and rest on baby's tummy)

Songs for Toddlers

Dancing Snowflakes

(to the tune of "Frère Jacques")

(Tell your child to dance like a snowflake. Repeat the song as many times as you like.)

Snowflakes dancing, snowflakes dancing,
In the air, everywhere,
Gently twirling snowflakes, lovely little snowflakes,
Twirling here, whirling there.

I'm a Little Snowman

(to the tune of "I'm a Little Teapot")

I'm a Little Snowman

Short and fat

Here is my broomstick

(Pretend to hold a broomstick)

Here is my hat

(Pretend to put a hat on your head)

When the sun comes out

I melt away

(Raise arms in a circle overhead)

Down, down, down, down,

I'm a puddle.

(Slowly slump to the floor)



What your library can do for you...

Your library has lots of great music CDs for babies and toddlers- check one out today!

Funding for this project is made possible by the Idaho Commission for Libraries' Read to Me program, and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under a provision of the Library Services and Technology Act.

Printed 2011

