



For grades
K-1

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?

- 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

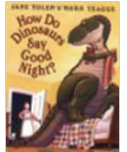
Owl Moon, by Jane Yolen

On a cold winter's night, beneath a full moon, a young girl and her father trek into the woods to go owling. In a place filled with moonlight, mystery, and magic, father and daughter hope to catch a glimpse of a great horned owl. This is a special tale of the bond between family members and between people and nature.



Jane Yolen has written many favorite children's books, including *How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight*, and other *How Do Dinosaurs...*

books. She has also written folk tales, poetry, information books, graphic novels, and fiction for young readers through young adult readers.



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 *Owl Moon*

Arts and crafts... Make a bird feeder for backyard birds: Tie a piece of string or yarn tightly around the top of a pinecone. Spread peanut butter or shortening on the pine cone, then dip in a bowl of bird seed. Hang outside where squirrels cannot get to it.

In the kitchen... Warm snowman snack: Give your child three refrigerated biscuits to place next to each other in a straight line on a piece of foil (to look like a snowman). Let her use pretzel sticks and raisins for the snowman's arms, eyes, nose, mouth, and buttons. Place foil on a cookie sheet and bake as directed on the biscuit can. Serve with butter or honey. Enjoy on a cold winter day!

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

- What kinds of things did the artist do in the pictures to make you feel that the weather was very cold?

- How would you have felt walking through the woods at night if you were the child in the story?



Great Winter Books

Snuggle up and get cozy with these favorites...

Snowmen at Night, Caralyn Buehner

The Snowy Day, Ezra Jack Keats

Arthur and the Big Snow, Mark Brown

Snowballs, Lois Ehlert

Bear Snores On, Karma Wilson

Snow, Uri Shulevitz

The Mitten, Jan Brett

Katy and the Big Snow, Virginia Lee Burton



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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