



For ages
**Birth
to 2**

The Bookworm



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

January 2012

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?

- Re-tell stories with your child using puppets or props. Talk about what is going on in the pictures.
- Name things (real objects and pictures in books) as you go through the day. Use songs and nursery rhymes.
- Make sure your child has lots of chances to talk *with* you, not just listen to you talk.
- Ask your baby a question and then answer for her. "Your diaper needs changing; let's do that right now, OK? Good!"
- Ask your toddler to tell you about something that happened to him today; ask questions so he can add details.
- Use the language that is most comfortable for you!

Book of the Month

The Pigeon Has Feelings, Too! by Mo Willems

In this "smidgeon of pigeon" book, written especially for babies and toddlers, Pigeon is cranky. Pigeon is a character that young children can relate to, learn from, and laugh with over the years!



Another "smidgeon of pigeon" book:
The Pigeon Loves Things That Go

Full-length Pigeon books:



Choosing quality books:

American Library Association Awards

Author and illustrator Mo Willems is a Caldecott Honor winner for *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*, *Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale*, and *Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity*. He also won Geisel Medals for *There is a Bird on Your Head!* and *Are You Ready to Play Outside?*

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.

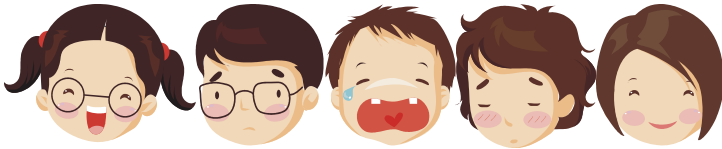
Look for these gold or silver medals at your local library.



More fun with *The Pigeon Has Feelings, Too!*

Talk about it... As you read together, ask your little one to copy Pigeon's feelings. "Pigeon is *angry*. Can you make an *angry face*?"

Arts and crafts... Using real photos of your child/family or pictures cut from magazines, create a Feelings Book. Find pictures of different feelings such as happy, sad, angry, frustrated, surprised, scared, excited and put them in a photo album or scrapbook. (You can also staple several pages of paper together at the edge.) Look at the book with your child and ask questions about the feelings shown in the photos.



Good books to build Narrative Skills

Books with a repeated phrase

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? Bill Martin, Jr. and Eric Carle

Moo Moo, Brown Cow, Jakki Wood

Books with repeated parts of the story

Overboard, Sarah Weeks

Mrs. Wishy Washy, Jow Cowley

Books where events happen in an order

The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Eric Carle

Goodnight Gorilla, Peggy Rathman

Books with photos of babies, animals, and everyday objects

Animal Babies: A Counting Book, by Daniel Moreton

Splash! (Baby Faces series) Roberta Grobel Intrater

Any book! You can find lots of things in books to talk about with your child.

Song

Old MacDonald Felt So Glad
(tune of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm")

Old MacDonald felt so glad,
HA-HA-HA-HA-HA.
And when he's glad, he sounds like this:
HA-HA-HA-HA-HA.
With a HA-HA here,
And a HA-HA there,
And a HA-HA-HA-HA everywhere,
Old MacDonald felt so glad,
HA-HA-HA-HA-HA.

[Repeat with]

... grumpy, NO! NO! NO! NO! NO!

... sad, BOO-HOO-BOO-HOO-HOO.

... silly, NAH-NAH, NAH, NAH, NAH.

... shy, whisper-whisper-low.



What your library can do for you...

Don't have a library card? You can still visit your library for storytimes or to read with your child. Or you can ask your librarian about how to apply for your own card today!

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