



For ages
3-5

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.

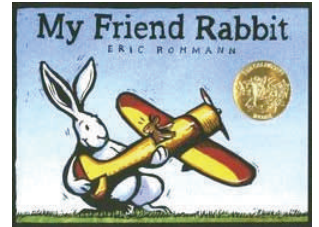
What can parents do to help build narrative skills?

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

Book of the Month

My Friend Rabbit, by Eric Rohmann

Rabbit means well, but whatever he does and wherever he goes, trouble seems to follow. The detailed illustrations in this story will spark good conversations about friendship, patience, and loyalty. Your child will want to read this award-winning book over and over again with you!



Other books by Eric Rohmann:

Time Flies
Bone Dog



Choosing quality books: American Library Association Awards

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

The Caldecott Medal is awarded each year to the artist of the best-illustrated American picture book for children.

The Theodore Seuss Geisel Award (Dr. Seuss) is presented each year to the best American book in English for beginning readers.

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



More fun with *My Friend Rabbit*

Talk about it... *My Friend Rabbit* received the Caldecott Medal in 2003. Many of the pages contain detailed illustrations and no words. Help your child tell the story by asking questions such as, "What is Rabbit doing here?" "What do you think Mouse is thinking?" "What is Rabbit's idea?" "What do you think will happen next?"

Arts and crafts... Using real photos or pictures your child has drawn, you and your child can create a Friendship Book. As you fill in the pages, ask your child what they like best about their friend and write their words on the pictures or below the photos. Ask lots of questions that cannot be answered with "yes" or "no."

In the kitchen... Help your child stir peanut butter and jelly together for a sandwich. Talk about how the peanut butter is good all by itself and so is jelly, but together they make a great treat. Compare this to playing alone and playing with a friend.



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



Try these with your child:

Fingerplay: Friends

I have two friends,
(hold up two fingers on left hand)
And they have me;
(hold up one finger on right hand)
Two friends and me,
(bend each from left to right)
That's one, two, three!
(hold up while saying 1, 2, 3)



Song: The More We Get Together

The more we get together,
together, together.
The more we get together,
the happier we'll be.
'Cause your friends are my friends
and my friends are your friends.
The more we get together,
the happier we'll be!

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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