



Age Group
Kinders

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.

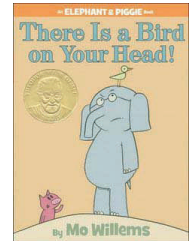
What can parents do to help build narrative skills?

- 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

There Is a Bird on Your Head! by Mo Willems

Gerald learns that there are worse things than having a bird on your head; two love birds, a nest, and three baby birds can cause a much bigger problem!



This book in the "Elephant and Piggie" series received the Theodore Seuss Geisel Award in 2009. Mo Willems is the author of several popular series:

Pigeon



Cat the Cat



Knuffle Bunny



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 Theodore Seuss 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 *There Is a Bird on Your Head!*

In the mood... This is a great book to help your child identify moods and feelings. Ask your child to hunt through the book for examples of: happy, mad, scared, confused, frustrated, etc.

Tech time... Play Elephant and Piggie games, print coloring sheets, and meet more Mo Willems characters at pigeonpresents.com/.

Arts and crafts... Elephant and Piggie are best friends. Provide paper and crayons and ask your child to draw a picture of him playing with his best friend. Ask him questions about his drawing.

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

How does Piggie's advice help Elephant?

How is Piggie going to get the birds to leave her head?

If someone does something that bothers you, what are good ways you can get that person to stop doing it?

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



Song to sing with your child

Make New Friends

Make new friends; but keep the old.
One is silver and the other is gold.

A circle is round; it has no end.
That's how long I want to be your friend.

A fire burns bright; it warms the heart.
We've been friends from the very start.

You help me, and I'll help you,
And together we will see it through.

Across the land; across the sea.
Friends forever we will always be.

Listen to the tune at:
www.songsforteaching.com/folk/makenewfriends.php



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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