

## Did you know...



**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.

## Here's how...



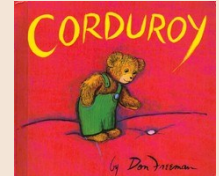
- ✦ Re-read books so that your child can become familiar with the story, making it easier to retell.
- ✦ Encourage your child to tell you something from her own experience related to what happened in the book.
- ✦ Encourage your child to retell the story.
- ✦ Encourage your child to talk about the pictures in the book even if what she says is not in the story. Ask open-ended questions, those 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.



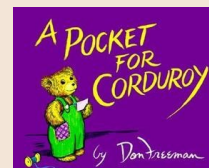
## Read



### **Corduroy, by Don Freeman**



Poor Corduroy! No one will buy him because his overalls are missing a button. So late one night the teddy bear leaves his shelf and explores the department store in search of his button. He has many adventures before the night watchman discovers him and returns him to his shelf. The next morning is his lucky day! A little girl named Lisa buys him with money she saved in her piggy bank. Lisa looks past Corduroy's missing button and sees a friend to love.



Corduroy has another adventure in *A Pocket for Corduroy*. Look for it at your local library!

## Choose Books



### **Some classic books that help teach narrative skills...**

*Bedtime for Frances*, by Lillian Hoban

*Caps for Sale*, by Esphyr Slobodkina

*Make Way for Ducklings*, by Robert McCloskey

*Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, by James Marshall

*Strega Nona*, by Tomie DePaola

## Talk



Corduroy has a missing button. Button collections are a good way for your child to practice literacy and math skills. You can talk with them about:

- Size
- Color
- Function (do they keep a coat closed or are just decoration on shoes?)
- Shape

They can also sort and count the buttons into groups that are alike in some way. Buttons are also fun to use in craft and sewing projects.

## Write



Idaho's Early Learning Guidelines have suggestions for writing practice at home:

- Help your child make labels for different sets of objects or signs to label creations
- Help your child write numbers from 0-20
- Help your child make To Do lists, then check tasks off when completed.

## Play



Children's apps can support a child's learning if they are high-quality, and screen time is kept to a minimum. Here is an app that helps develop narrative skills. Children use digital felt board figures to re-tell nursery rhymes. It was created by Youth Services Librarian Betsy Diamant-Cohen, and is free from iTunes. Search for "Felt-Board Mother Goose on the Loose."



See how to play at [www.mgol.net](http://www.mgol.net) under the Resources tab. Check out other great ideas on the Mother Goose on the Loose website, too!

## Sing



### The Bear Went Over the Mountain

The bear went over the mountain,  
The bear went over the mountain,  
The bear went over the mountain,  
To see what he could see.  
The other side of the mountain,  
The other side of the mountain,  
The other side of the mountain,  
Was all that he could see.  
The other side of the mountain,  
Was all that he could see!

To hear the tune of this song, visit:  
[www.kididdles.com/lyrics/b005.html](http://www.kididdles.com/lyrics/b005.html)

## At your library...



Idaho Family Reading Week is an annual statewide celebration of reading as a family activity. The theme this year is "Curl Up with a Classic." Libraries across the state are planning fun events that celebrate family reading.

Ask your librarian about special events and programs planned for Family Reading Week, November 15–21, 2015.