

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 happened 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

Here's how...



- ✦ Encourage your child to say the repeated phrase with you.
- ✦ Re-read books so that your child can become familiar with the story, making it easier to 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.
- ✦ 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 it.

Read



The Snowy Day, by Ezra Jack Keats



In this Caldecott Award book, a small boy named Peter experiences the joy of a snowy day. This classic book was first published in 1962 and has been loved by many generations of children.

Ezra Jack Keats was one of the most important children's literature authors and illustrators of the 20th Century. He was one of the first children's book authors to introduce and celebrate characters of different races in his stories.



Choosing Books



More classics:

The Very Hungry Caterpillar, by Eric Carle

The Little Red Hen, by Paul Galdone

Green Eggs and Ham, by Dr. Seuss

The Gingerbread Man, by Jim Aylesworth

Today is Monday, by Eric Carle

Where the Wild Things Are, by Maurice Sendak

Blueberries for Sal, by Robert McCloskey

Curious George, by H.A. Rey

Talk



Children love to cook, so find a recipe that they'll like, and work through the steps together. Use words such as "first," "next," and "last," to help your child put the steps in order. Talk about the ingredients and how they work together: "If we ____, then ____." Share family stories about the recipe or cooking together. Enjoy!

Write



Being able to re-tell stories is an important part of narrative skills. Create a book from blank paper folded in half, and ask your child to tell you about an activity or special event shortly after it happens. Write down what he says, and ask him to draw pictures to illustrate the book. The book would be fun to share with others and help your child understand the power of words.

Play



Five Little Snowmen

(Traditional)

Five little snowmen all in a row.

The first one said, "I'm not ready to go!"

The second one said, "We can stay 'til spring."

The third one said, "'Til the robins sing."

The fourth one said, "But then where will we go?"

The fifth one said, "To sleep, my friend, 'til next year's snow!" *(place head on hands as if asleep.)*

Use puppets or stuffed animals to act this rhyme out with your child.



Sing



Snow, Snow

(to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")

Snow, snow, see the snow,

(hold hands high)

Falling to the ground,

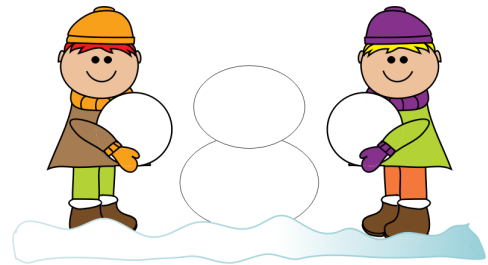
(flutter fingers down to floor)

Take some snow and pack it tight,

(pack pretend snow in hands)

And make it nice and round.

(form circle with hands)



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.