

Did you know...



Children who can describe things and events can have conversations about what is happening in books, and those children who can tell stories are better able to understand what they hear, and later, what they read. These are called “narrative skills.”

Here's how...

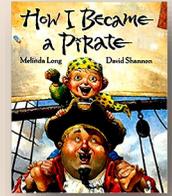


- ✦ Read books that have words or phrases that repeat. Encourage your child to say the repeated phrase with you each time.
- ✦ Re-read books so your child can become familiar with the story, making it easier to retell the story.
- ✦ Have your child retell the story.
- ✦ Encourage your child to tell you 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.
- ✦ Stop before turning the page and ask your child what they think will happen next.
- ✦ Instead of asking your child how school was (Typical answer: “Good”), ask specific questions that require a more detailed answer. What was the best thing that happened today? What stories did the teacher share? What was something nice that you did for someone?

Read



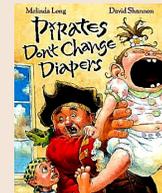
How I Became a Pirate, **by Melinda Long**



When Braid Beard's pirate crew invites Jeremy Jacob to join their voyage, he jumps right on board. Buried treasure, sea chanteys, pirate talk; who *wouldn't* go along?

Award-winning illustrator David Shannon teams up with witty storyteller Melinda Long for a hilarious look at the finer points of pirate life. As you're reading this book with your child, let yourself be a little silly and have fun using your pirate voice!

Look for the next Jeremy Jacob pirate adventure at your library:



Choose Books



Books that help build describing or retelling skills (“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

Books with detailed illustrations

Wordless picture books



Talk



Play “I Spy” with your child. Give them a paper towel tube to use as a spyglass. Decorate if you wish. Model looking through the spyglass and finding an object, then use describing words: “I spy with my little eye something soft, brown, and with button eyes.” “It’s my teddy bear!” Take turns spying and describing.

Write



Help your child make a map of your yard or a room in your house. Let them hide a “treasure” such as a piece of candy or some stickers, then let a sibling or a friend use the map to find the treasure.

Play



A Sailor Went to Sea

A sailor went to sea, sea, sea
To see what he could see, see, see
But all that he could see, see, see
Was the deep, dark bottom of the sea, sea, sea.

Hear tune: [www.mothersgooseclub.com/
videos/a-sailor-went-to-sea-nursery-rhyme/](http://www.mothersgooseclub.com/videos/a-sailor-went-to-sea-nursery-rhyme/)

There are lots of ways to make this song a game:

- Clap each time you sing "see/sea"
- Put hand up to eyes each time you sing “see/sea”
- Sing song faster and faster each time you sing it
- Write the words “see” and “sea” on cards; have your child point to the correct spelling each time they sing the word

For a fun hand-clapping game see <https://youtu.be/rndGYcEBB3U>

To play with vowel sounds see: [www.songsforteaching.com/folk/
asailorwenttosea.php](http://www.songsforteaching.com/folk/asailorwenttosea.php)



Sing



(Tune: *If You're Happy and You Know It*)

If you're a pirate and you know it, swab the deck
(*swish, swish*).

If you're a pirate and you know it, swab the deck
(*swish, swish*).

If you're a pirate and you know it, then you'll
hear the sea winds blowin'.

If you're a pirate and you know it, swab the deck
(*swish, swish*).

Repeat with these verses:

If you're a pirate and you know it, walk the
plank (*stomp, stomp*) ...

If you're a pirate and you know it, look for
treasures (*look through spyglass*) ...

If you're a pirate and you know it, say
ahoy Ahoy! (*with arm movement*) ...

Tune: [www.thelearninggroove.com/
if-youre-happy-and-you-know-it](http://www.thelearninggroove.com/if-youre-happy-and-you-know-it)



At your library...



Idaho Family Reading Week is an annual statewide celebration of reading as a family activity. The theme this year is “*Fun and Games*.” 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 9—15, 2020.