

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 ...

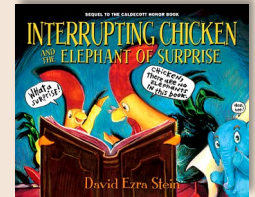


- ✦ Read books that have words or phrases that repeat. Encourage your child to say the repeated phrase with you each time.
- ✦ Re-read books so your child can become familiar with the story, making it easier to retell the story.
- ✦ Have your child retell the story.
- ✦ Encourage your child to tell you 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).
- ✦ Ask your child to tell you about the pictures they draw.
- ✦ Stop before turning the page and ask your child what they think will happen next.
- ✦ Read “wordless” books (see “Talk” page 2).
- ✦ 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 happened at recess?

Read



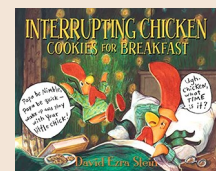
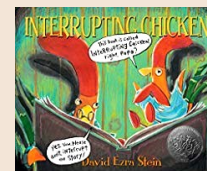
Interrupting Chicken and the Elephant of Surprise



David Ezra Stein

It's homework time for the little red chicken, who has just learned about something every good story should have: an elephant of surprise. Or could it be an *element* of surprise (as her amused papa explains)? As they dive in to story after story, looking for the part that makes a reader say "Whoa! I didn't know *that* was going to happen," Papa is sure he can convince Chicken he's right. After all, there are definitely no elephants in "The Ugly Duckling," "Rapunzel," or "The Little Mermaid" -- or are there?

Interrupting Chicken series:



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



Point out the word bubbles to your child and explain that they are used to show what the character is saying. Also point out the different types of punctuation marks and type, and show how these clues tell us how to read the words with emotion.

Write



Let your child practice using word bubbles and punctuation by drawing a picture, then writing down what the characters are saying.



Play



Does your child have a favorite book? Try acting it out instead of reading it. Use puppets or other toys around the house. Have fun, use different voices for the characters, and be silly!

As you play with your child, ask open-ended questions that require your child to answer with more than “yes” or “no.” “What happens next?” “How could we change the ending of the story?” “What is your favorite part of the story? Why?”



At your library ...



Idaho Family Reading Week is an annual statewide celebration of reading as a family activity. Ask your librarian if the library is planning special events and programs planned for Family Reading Week, November 6-12, 2023.

Sing



Mother Gooney Bird

(There are many versions of this song, which is based on the tune “Father Abraham.” Here is one fun version:

Chorus:

Mother Goony Bird had seven chicks.
Seven chicks had Mother Goony Bird.
And they couldn't fly, and they couldn't swim,
They could only go like this:

Right wing (*right arm bent in “wing” position, flaps up and down*)

Repeat chorus, this time add:

Left wing (*left arm goes along with right wing*)

Keep repeating chorus, add one each time and match actions to body part:

Right foot

Left foot

Nod head

Tail Out

Turn Around... Sit down!

See video and hear tune:

<https://tinyurl.com/mother-gooney-bird>

