

Did you know ...



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

Here's how ...

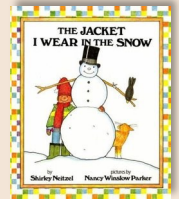


- ✦ Read books that have words or phrases that repeat. Encourage your child to say the repeated phrase with you each time.
- ✦ Re-read books so your child can become familiar with the story, making it easier to retell the story.
- ✦ Have your child retell the story.
- ✦ Encourage your child to tell you something from their own experience related to what happened in the book.
- ✦ Use puppets or props to tell the story to help your child remember it.
- ✦ Encourage your child to talk about the pictures in the book, even if what they say 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 you turn the page and ask your child what they think will happen next.
- ✦ Read “wordless” books.
- ✦ Expand on your child’s descriptions. You: *What have you got there?* Child: *A ball.* You: *Oh, it’s a big, red, bouncy ball! What game shall we play with it?*

Read



The Jacket I Wear in the Snow by Shirley Neitzel



Rhyme follows rhyme as layer after layer of winter clothing is first put on and then taken off to the relief of the child bundled inside. Your child can help tell the story by naming the pictures as you read.

Stories such as this one that build upon a series of events are called “cumulative” tales or “chain” tales. They are great for helping children retell the story with props or puppets.

Choosing Books



Books that help build describing or retelling 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

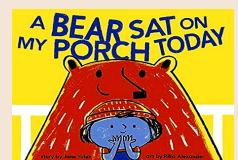
Some examples:

A Bear Sat on My Porch Today by Jane Yolen

Froggy Gets Dressed by Jonathan London

Jump, Frog, Jump! by Robert Kalan

Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons by Eric Litwin



Talk



Children who have grown up in Idaho or other snowy states have likely dressed up in many layers of warm clothes and gone out to play in the snow. Ask your child questions about the illustrations in *The Jacket I Wear in the Snow* as you read:

- Why is the child crying?
- What is happening with the child and the sled?
- How do you think the child is feeling when the mom starts getting all those layers of hot clothes off?
- What do you remember about a time when we bundled you up in lots of layers of warm clothes?

Write



Snow Painting: Fill spray bottles with water colored by food coloring and let your child paint on the snow. The squeezing action of the spray bottles helps build hand muscles and coordination, which will help them to grip and use a pencil to write.

Play



Five Snowmen Fingerplay

Based on the song, "Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed."

(Start with five fingers up, lower one finger each time a snowman falls off)

Five happy snowmen riding on a sled,
One fell off and bumped his head.
Frosty called the doctor and the doctor said,
"No more snowmen riding on that sled!"

Repeat with four, three, two, one

Hear the tune at

[www.thelearninggroove.com/
five-little-monkeys](http://www.thelearninggroove.com/five-little-monkeys)



Sing



The Snowkey Pokey

(Sung to the tune of the Hokey Pokey)

You put your right mitten in,
you take your right mitten out,
you put your right mitten in
and you shake it all about.
You do the snowkey pokey
and you turn yourself around.
That's what it's all about.

Additional verses:

You put your left mitten in ...
You put your right boot in ...
You put your left boot in ...
You put your hat in ...
You put your snowself in ...



To listen to the tune of the Hokey Pokey visit
www.thelearninggroove.com/hokey-pokey

At your library ...



Your family is welcome in the library, and your librarians care very much about you and your children. They are committed to helping every child get a great start, succeed in school, and create lifelong learners.

Libraries are for everyone!