

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...

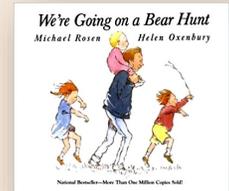


- ✦ Read books that have words or phrases that repeat. Encourage your child to say the repeated phrase with you each time.
- ✦ Re-read books so your child can become familiar with the story, making it easier to retell the story.
- ✦ Have your child retell the story.
- ✦ Encourage your child to tell you something from her 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 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 you turn the page and ask your child what they think will happen next.
- ✦ 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



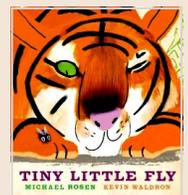
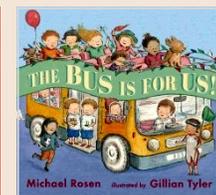
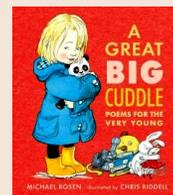
We're Going on a Bear Hunt, by Michael Rosen



We're going on a bear hunt. We're going to catch a big one. Will you come too? Follow and join this family as they wade through the grass, splash through the river, and squelch through the mud in search of a bear. What a surprise awaits them in the cave on the other side of the dark forest!

See the author's hilarious reading of this story at <https://tinyurl.com/Rosen-reads-bear-hunt>

Other Michael Rosen books:



Choosing Books



Books that help build describing or retelling skills (sometimes called "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



Set up a bear hunt for your child by hiding a small stuffed or plastic bear (or any object) somewhere in the house or yard. Lead your child to the bear using the words “over,” “under,” “through,” “around,” etc. Example: First walk *through* the kitchen. Now crawl *under* the table and walk *over* the rug to the living room. Walk *around* the coffee table and see if you can find the bear.

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



Grizzly Bear, Grizzly Bear (Action Rhyme)

Grizzly bear, grizzly bear, where have you been?
Over the mountains, such things I've seen!

(pretend to look over mountains)

Grizzly bear, grizzly bear, what have you done?
Eaten fresh blueberries made ripe by the sun.

(pretend to be eating)

Grizzly bear, grizzly bear, what have you found?
Ice-cold spring water, deep from the ground.

(pretend to drink)

Grizzly bear, grizzly bear, what do you dream?
Sweet tasting salmon swimming upstream.

(make a swishing motion with hands)

Grizzly bear, grizzly bear, where do you creep?
In my dark cave

(pretend to creep into a cave)

Now let me sleep!



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.

And all that he could see,

And all that he could see,

Was the other side of the mountain,

The other side of the mountain.

The other side of the mountain,

Was all that he could see!



To hear the tune of this song, visit:
www.nurseryrhymes.org/the-bear-went-over-the-mountain.html

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.