

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 ...

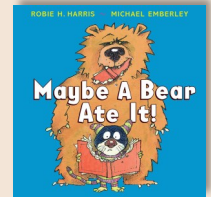


- ✦ Read books that have words or phrases that repeat. Encourage your child to say the repeated phrase with you each time.
- ✦ Re-read books so your child can become familiar with the story, making it easier to retell the story.
- ✦ Have your child retell the story.
- ✦ Encourage your child to tell you 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



Maybe a Bear Ate It! by Robie Harris



After a sleepy yawn and big stretch, a young creature finds his book missing from his bed. He imagines all sorts of horrible things that could have happened to it, and when he calms down he finds it buried under the bed--where readers will note it's been all along!

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

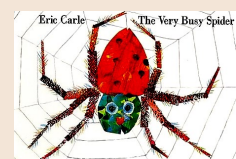
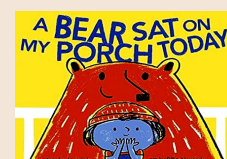
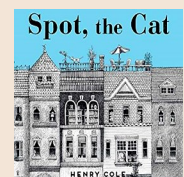
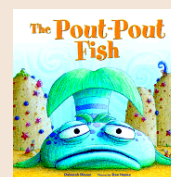
Books that tell a tale that builds on itself

Books where the events happen in an order

Books with detailed illustrations

Wordless picture books

Some examples:



Talk



The first five years of your child's life are very important for developing social and emotional skills that will help them have healthy relationships with other children and adults. Reading picture books with your child can provide ways to talk about social and emotional concepts in a way that makes sense to them. For example, the illustrations in a book often show a character with different emotions. Talk about the pictures with your child and help give them words to name the feelings the character is having. "Look at Creature's face on this page. He sure looks worried!" "He looks very upset in this picture. How do you know he is upset?"

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 they say, and ask them 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



Play hide and seek with your child by hiding a small toy or object somewhere in the house or yard. Lead your child to the object 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 (object).

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. Ask your librarian if the library is planning special events and programs planned for Family Reading Week, November 6-12, 2023.