

## 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, such as “Jump, Frog, Jump!” 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.
- ❖ 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



### “Blueberries for Sal” by Robert McCloskey



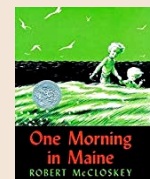
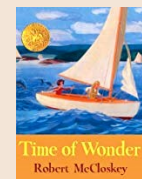
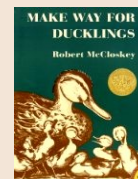
Little Sal and Little Bear both lose their mothers while eating blueberries, and each almost ends up with the other's mother. These charming illustrations, which earned a Caldecott Honor award, will leave you and your child craving a fresh pail of blueberries of your own!

*Other books by Robert McCloskey to enjoy:*

“Make Way for Ducklings” (Caldecott Award)

“Time of Wonder” (Caldecott Award)

“One Morning in Maine” (Caldecott Honor)



*And many more!*

## 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



Give your child a handful of blueberries (or other small foods) and a small container. Ask her to count them as she puts them in the container. Counting by ones is an important first math skill. For older children, put a small amount of berries in two containers. Ask, "Which has more? How can we find out?" Comparing amounts is also an important skill.



## Write



Give your child some paper and some crayons, colored pencils, or washable markers, and ask him to draw a picture of his favorite part of the book. Ask him questions when he is finished. "Tell me about your drawing. Why is this your favorite part of the story? Can you tell me more about this part of your picture?"

## 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](http://www.nurseryrhymes.org/the-bear-went-over-the-mountain.html)

## Play



### Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear

*(Match body movements to words)*

Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, shut the door.  
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, count to four.  
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, reach up high.  
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, wink one eye.  
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, put away your shoes.  
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, that will do.  
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, touch your nose.  
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, touch your toes.  
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, climb in bed.  
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, rest your head.  
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, turn out the light.  
Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, say, "Goodnight."

## At your library...



Every April there is a celebration of children and reading, El día de los niños/El día de los libros. It is a day "for remembering the power of words and books in the lives of our young people and for honoring all the languages spoken in the homes of this country," says Pat Mora, children's author.

Check with your library for any special Día events and books in other languages.