

Story Telling

Preschool children like to tell stories. They sometimes do this by...

- Talking about something that has happened (e.g., getting stung by a bee)
- Retelling a familiar story
- Telling an imaginary story

How can you help?

- Find the time to talk to your child one on one. Storytelling requires us to explore or elaborate on each event rather than jump from one topic to another.
- Talk with your child about things that happened in the past.
- Talk about the things your child wants to talk about.
- Model telling a story about something that happened in your life, such as losing your car keys (e.g., use words like **first**, **then**, and **after**).

Help your child to tell stories:

- Encourage your child to tell you about something that happened to him/her. Help them to elaborate and stay on track by using comments (e.g., "You went to the zoo. I bet you saw lots of animals!").
- Make neutral comments like, "Really?", "And then...", and "Tell me more!"
- Repeat back exactly what your child has just said (e.g. "Oh no, you dropped your ice cream cone!").
- When your child's story doesn't make sense, don't pretend you understand. Help your child clarify by asking questions (e.g., "Did you go to the park or the circus?").
- Summarize a story for your child after they have finished telling it. This helps you check your understanding, and lets your child hear a better organized version with correct word order and grammar.
- Talk about a familiar movie with your child. Have your child tell you his/her favorite part. Help provide the structure by using words like 'first', 'then', 'next' and 'last'.