



Tips for story activities

Reading a story with children for enjoyment is a great bonding and educational activity in itself. But did you know, you can do simple activities that extend the experience of the story for your children and enhance their learning? Here are some tips to help you do this. Try out one tip at a time. See which ones work best for you and your children.

Songs and rhymes

Sing a song or say a rhyme linked to the story.

Ask them to guess

As you read, develop your children's prediction skills by asking, 'what do you think will happen next?'

Deepen emotional & intellectual connections

Encourage children to express their feelings and opinions and get them thinking and problem solving by asking questions like, 'how would you feel if that was you?', 'do you think that was the right thing to say/do?', and 'what would you have said/done if it was you?'

Look closely at the pictures

Ask your children to look closely at particular details in the illustrations. Let them count, describe, identify or interpret what they see in the pictures.

Drawing

Invite younger children to draw a picture of the part of the story they liked best. Ask older children to draw a map of where the story is set. If children want to draw something that moves away from the storyline, like a new ending, or if they want to draw themselves as characters, encourage this too!

Review the book

Ask children what they liked about the book and if there is anything they wished was different.

Act it out

Act out the story or a portion of it together. Or, just dress up and pretend to be the story characters for an hour or two!

Get children writing

Let them write a letter or type an email to the author and actually send it! (You can do this by sending the letter to the publisher of the book who will pass it on to the author.) You can also suggest that they write a poem describing one of the characters in the story or write a review of the book to share with friends.

Create your own books

Fold a few sheets of paper to create a book so that your children can create their own books. Encourage them to draw pictures. Help younger children finish their books by writing the words they tell you for each picture. Let older children write on their own. Ask them to try to spell words for themselves and praise their spelling attempts. If they ask for help, give it. Encourage your children to read their own books and to share them with others!

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