

Storytime



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Value

- + promotes early reading
- + appreciation of reading
- + vocabulary
- + imagination
- + story language
- + story form
- + patience
- + listening skills
- + comprehension
- + writing skills
- + thinking skills
- + curiosity
- + experiences at no cost
- + transmits wisdom
- + it's fun!



Story Selection

- Children's interests
- Read children's books until you can select "great" stories vs mundane
- Good illustrations
- Pictures match words
- Text flows smoothly without dull sections
- Vary genres
- Select favorite authors and immerse children in their style



Types of Story Patterns

- Rhymes
- Repetitive phrases
- Circular story
- Rhythm
- Concept books: e.g. Alphabet, Colors, Numbers
- Fiction/Non-fiction
- Themes: e.g. 3 Little Pigs; Bears; Winter
- Genre: e.g. scary stories, fantasy, fairy tales, nursery rhymes



Tips for Sharing Stories

- Know the story
- Facial expressions
- Gestures
- Character voices
- Exaggerated expression
- Pause for effect
- Discuss unusual words
- Props or artifacts
- Vary volume
- Vary pace
- Choose stories that you like
- Child involvement
- Eye contact
- Make rhymes, patterns apparent



Character Development

- Avoid stereotypes
- Make them real
- Practise a variety of voices, patterns, dialogues
- Immerse yourself in sounds, rhythm
- Use throat - tighten for fear
- Imitate people who are old, silly, arrogant
- Listen for people who whine, snarl, snap, growl
- Listen to voice changes with emotional shifts



Crowd Control

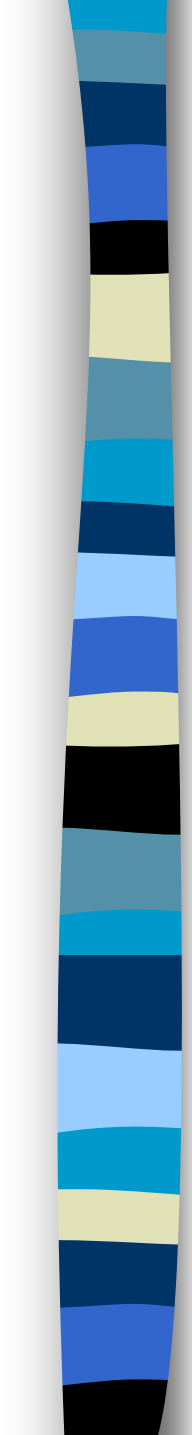
- Speak softly but firmly
- Seat children in semi-circle
- Children sitting flat, with legs crossed in front
- Have quiet environment
- Asking questions will get 'stories'
- Ignore minor interruptions
- Have high expectations for behavior Nod and look expectantly for them to join in



Do's

- Begin reading to children as soon as possible
- Use Mother Goose rhymes and songs
- Read as often as you have time for
- Try to have one traditional time every day for story
- Remember that listening is an acquired skill
- Vary length and subject matter
- Follow through with reading commitment
- Practise

Don'ts

- 
- Compete with TV
 - Interrupt story for teaching points on first reading
 - Turn every story into "lesson"
 - Connect every story to theme
 - Read too fast
 - Threaten to remove story time
 - Read stories you don't like
 - Keep reading a "bad" story
 - Start reading if you are under strict time pressure
 - Stop questions
 - Get too comfortable



Beginning your story

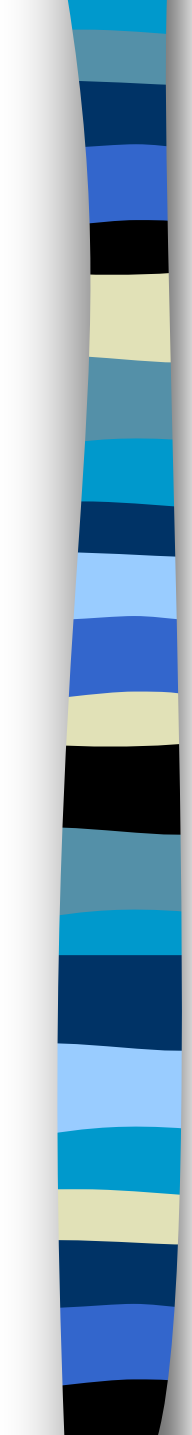
- Pick good location and lighting
- Hold book high
- Allow listeners to settle down, adjust feet and minds to the story
- Introduce Title, Author, Illustrator
- Ask for predictions about what the story might be about by using cover illustration
- Remind children about any connections they may have with this book



Closure

Choose only one per book

- Allow for discussion
- Open-ended questions get children thinking (Why? How?)
- Connections to other stories
- Connects to their world
- Favorite part
- Determine if they would like to have another story similar to this one
- Artistic expression
- Read the story again (by child request only)



“Please read to me’
is more than a child’s
request for attention,
it’s an opportunity
to expand a child’s mind.”

by Bernice Cullinan
in “Read to me: Raising kids who love to read”