

Developing Your Child's Narrative Skills At Home

NARRATIVE SKILLS

Once your child can use sentences to talk about what they can see, the next step is for your child to start telling **narratives** (stories).

This includes being able to tell you what they have done at nursery/school, what happened when they hurt their knee, telling you what happened in their favourite TV programme or story.

Here are some **activities** you can try with your child to help develop their narrative skills:



ACTIVITIES

READING BOOKS

Read simple motivating story books to your child. The books should contain a **beginning, middle and end**.

Ask your child questions to help them gain a better understanding of the story e.g. "who is in the story?", "where is she going?", "what will happen next?", "do you think he feels scared or happy?"

After the story has finished, jointly **sum up** what happened in the story.



Activities & Tasks

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RETELLING STORIES

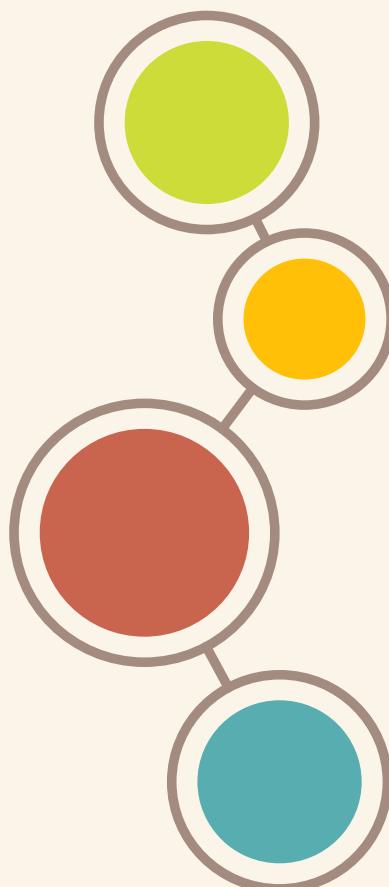
Encourage your child to **retell** their **favourite** stories/films/tv programmes. This could be to you, another relative or maybe your child's favourite teddies!

If your child is retelling a story book, make sure they have the book so they can use the pictures to guide them.

PRACTICING SEQUENCING IN DAILY ROUTINES.

Sequencing is the ability to arrange information in the correct order. We need these skills to be able to tell somebody what has happened. Children can practice their sequencing skills within daily routines:

- **Narrate** simple routines throughout the day "first we put our pants on then our trousers ..."
- **Encourage** your child to tell you the next **step** in a **routine** "We're going to make a sandwich, first we get some bread... I can't remember what we do next! Can you help me?"
- **Ask** your child to be "teacher" and to tell you what to do in a routine.



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REMINISCE

Talk about funny or exciting things you and your child have done in the past. If you **repeat** the story lots of times, they may eventually be able to tell the story to somebody else.



HELP YOUR CHILD FIX THEIR STORIES:

If you are finding it hard to understand your child's narrative, it is important to indicate that **you do not understand**.

This way your child will learn that they need to "repair" the story; **Ask** your child further questions so that you can make sense of the story and then relay their story back to them in the correct way.



MAKING UP STORIES TOGETHER

Make up **stories** together using your child's toys or just your imagination.

Give your child lots of help to **structure** the story e.g. "who is going to be in our story?" "Where will they go?" "to the forest? Uh-oh they bumped into a big bear! What will happen next?"



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USE A VISUAL TIMELINE:

A **timeline** helps your child to develop their sequencing skills and understanding of time concepts. It will provide a useful **structure** when they are telling you what they are going to do/ have done in the day.

RETELLING EVENTS OF THE DAY:

Encourage your child to **retell** the **events** of their day. If you have not been with your child, ask someone to tell you what has happened beforehand so you are able to help your child retell their day.



DAYS OUT

Take **photos** on a days out. The photos will help your child tell others about their exciting day out.

DRAWING EXCITING EVENTS

Encourage your child to **draw** a picture of something exciting they have done in the day. This activity is likely to generate lots of discussion and opportunities to practice their narrative skills.

