

Suggestions to encourage **READING** during storytime

Of course, reading books is the easiest and most obvious thing you can do to model and encourage reading during storytime! Here are a few ideas to make reading a richer experience, or to go beyond books.

Dialogic Reading

In short, dialogic reading is having a dialog with the child/ren as you read. Ask them open ended-questions such as “what do you notice,” “what is happening here,” and “what do you think will happen next” rather than asking yes/no questions. This way you will encourage them to use practice using words.

Example of dialogic reading: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/4807779/video/237790979>

Flannel Boards and Puppets

Narrative Skills can also be developed through telling and re-telling stories using flannel boards. Tell a classic fairy tale or read a book, then take it to the next level by having the kids re-tell the story while using flannel board characters. The same could be done with puppets. You can also ask preschoolers what they think happened next to the character and let them help you tell a new story!

“Cut and Tell” or “Draw and Tell” Stories

Encourage storytelling and Narrative Skills by performing a cut- or draw-and-tell story. These types of stories are especially fun with groups; as you tell a simple story, you draw or cut paper corresponding to things happening in the story and at the end you have drawn/cut a picture or shape that relates to the story! You can find many examples by Googling “cut and tell” or “draw and tell” story.

See an example of a Draw and Tell story here: <https://youtu.be/rVwtaLdO7Q4>

The Notes from the Storytime Room blog has tabs dedicated to both Draw- and Cut and Tell stories:

<http://meusenotes.blogspot.com/p/draw-and-tell-stories.html>

<http://meusenotes.blogspot.com/p/cut-and-tell-stories.html>

Nametags

A child’s name is usually one of the first words they learn to read and write. Offer nametags before storytime that already have the children’s names on them so they can practice reading! Or, have them write their own names—reading and writing goes hand in hand.

Schedule or List of Activities

Post the in-storytime schedule or list of storytime activities in the program room, from “Hello Song” to “Goodbye” song as well as the books, rhymes, and everything else in between. Add a picture with the corresponding word next to it so children of all ages can begin to identify what is coming next. Point out these words, as well as other signage in the program room!

Underline Words

As you read, use your finger to *occasionally* underline the words you are reading. This shows the children that you are reading words and not the pictures—something pre-readers don’t automatically know!