

Storytelling: You Can Do It!

What Can I Do for My Child?

For Babies to Toddlers (0–2 years)

- Hold your baby in your lap while you tell a story.
- Use lots of facial expressions, and keep eye contact with your baby.
- Use different voices as you speak. Babies can hear high-pitched sounds more easily than low-pitched sounds.
- Remember that if you use a prop, your baby will want to put it in his or her mouth.

For Toddlers (2–4 years)

- Have storytime when your child is starting to get sleepy and quiet down, such as after bath time or during a meal.
- Try acting out stories as you tell them, and have your child join in.
- Tell stories on topics that are meaningful to your toddler, such as potty training, your pets, your own history, or even about your toddler.
- Or, tell a fictional story, but make your toddler the star!

For Older Children (4–5 years)

- Follow up a story with a related activity. (Use the Learning Triangle!)
- Ask your children questions about the story.
- Talk with your children about the characters' emotions to help them learn to emotions in themselves and others.
- Let your children tell you the story after they hear it. This helps with their memory, language development, and imagination.

References

10 tips for making story time memorable. Retrieved from education.preschoolrock.com/index.php/language_and_reading/10_tips_for_making_story_time_memorable

McDowell, K. (2006). Babies' lap time. Retrieved from katemcdowell.com/laptime/Tips/tips.html

Shinn, L. (2009). Reading with toddlers: Story time tips for wiggly kids. *Parent Map*. Retrieved from parentmap.com/content/view/1208