



# | Storytelling Tips

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## **When**

## **Why & What**

At bed time...

Easy to do in the sleepy dark!

All kind of stories work – memories, folktales, made-up tales. Try making up a story about your child’s day.

While going somewhere...

Makes the trip seem much shorter!

Create a “journey” adventure, in which your child meets an interesting creature. Or tell about traveling when you were a child.

During quiet play...

Exercise children’s imaginations with sock or finger puppets. Encourage child to make up stories about stuffed animals or dolls or cars. Help make playhouses.

When baby is sitting on your lap...

Tell a rhythmic “once upon a time” story, or bounce baby to a nursery rhyme, count toes, make a story “walking” your fingers on his face and belly.

When something difficult happens...

A story can help your child see a situation from a different, comforting perspective. Storytelling can help with disappointment, illness, fight, bullying, big transitions (moving house, new sibling, etc.) Create a story about an imaginary character who has a problem similar to your child’s, and put your child in the story, helping to solve it.



lets talk!

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- Children love rhythms, melodies, rhymes, funny sounds – build them into your stories!
  - Children love participating – saying words, singing, making sounds with you.
  - Children love repetition – of words, phrases, songs, whole stories.
  - Children love activities around storytelling:
    - Drawing or painting images they’ve “seen” in the story
    - Playing the story as a game, acting it out while you tell it again
    - Making a puppet show with the characters in the story
    - Building scenes from the story with blocks, dolls, or stuffed animals,
  - Tell your stories in the language you speak best
  - If your child wants to tell you a story, listen delightedly – even if the “story” doesn’t seem to make much sense. This is an important beginning of literacy!
  - Looking at family photos is a great occasion for stories!
  - How to learn stories from books: Don’t memorize! Make yourself a simple Story Map, with stick figures and shapes, to remind yourself of events. Then tell the story in your own words. It doesn’t matter if you forget some things – your child will love it.
  - Many parents establish a regular family story time – perhaps at bedtime, or Sunday morning, or while feeding the baby, or whatever fits a particular family’s situation.
  - Story time can be anytime, spontaneous. But it can also be a ritual moment of quiet attention. You can tell stories in a special place (a particular couch or place in a room) or wear a special hat or shawl.
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