

Let Me Tell You a Story

Storytelling

As early as age two, children begin telling stories to organize their experiences, understand their culture, and hold onto their memories.

By age four, many children can tell complex stories about personal experiences.

Children remember facts more easily when they are put in story form.

The richer the repertoire of storytelling styles a child is exposed to, the more possibilities for that child to develop her own powerful narrative voice, one that reflects her community, her family and her inner life. *Engel, 1997*



Children tell stories as a way to solve social, emotional, and cognitive puzzles.

How can you help?

Encourage your child to tell stories.

- Tell stories to your child. Use fairy tales, folk tales, poetry and nonfiction to help your child learn new vocabulary and different story structures.
- Listen to your child's stories.
- Talk about the past and future, even when your child is very young.
- Have conversations, many and long, with your child.
- Ask your child to tell a story about a dream or an adventure.
- Use prompts such as "Once upon a time..."

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The Tailor

A Story to Tell

Once upon a time there was a poor tailor. This tailor lived long ago in a far away village. The tailor was so poor that even though he made all the other villagers warm winter overcoats, he could not afford to make one for himself. He decided to save and save and save his money so that one day he would be able to make himself a warm overcoat.

Finally, he was able to buy the material to make his overcoat. The material he chose was soft and warm. He did not want to waste any material. He very carefully cut the overcoat pattern out of the beautiful material and then sewed his overcoat. It fit him perfectly.

The tailor wore that overcoat even when it was warm out, he loved it so. But one day, a long time later, he realized that his beautiful overcoat was worn out and not so beautiful anymore. What would he do? He didn't want to throw it away or make it into rags.

The tailor looked at it and looked at it. Then he realized that if he cut it very carefully, there would be just enough material to make a jacket. So he cut the coat and made a jacket, which he liked almost as much as he had liked the overcoat. He wore the jacket until it was worn out and not so beautiful anymore. Now what would he do?

The tailor looked at it and looked at it. Then he realized that if he cut it very carefully, there would be just enough material to make a vest. A vest would keep him warm and cozy. He cut the jacket and made a vest, which he liked almost as much as he had liked the jacket. He wore that vest until it was worn out and not so beautiful anymore. Now what would he do?

The tailor looked at it and looked at it. Then he realized that if he cut it very carefully, there would be just enough material to make a hat. He needed a hat to keep his ears warm in winter and the sun off his head in summer. He cut the vest and made a hat, which he liked almost as much as he had liked the vest. He wore that hat until it was worn out and not so beautiful anymore. Now what would he do?

The tailor looked at it and looked at it. Then he realized that if he cut it very carefully, there would be just enough material to make a bow tie. He could wear the bow tie to keep his neck warm. He cut the hat and made a bow tie. He wore that bow tie until it was worn out and not so beautiful anymore. Now what would he do?

The tailor looked at it and looked at it. Then he realized that if he cut it very carefully, there would be just enough material to make a story...the story I just told you!

The End

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