

Did you know...?

“Narrative skills” is one of the early literacy skills researchers have identified to help with reading and comprehension?



“Narrative skills” is one of the six essential skills children need before they can learn to read.

What can parents and caregivers do to help children learn narrative skills?

- **Read** favourite books again and again. Stories help children understand that things happen in order first, next, last.
 - Being able to tell or retell a story help children understand what they read.
 - Use props from around home to help your children remember and retell stories.
 - Encourage your children to say repeated words along with you as you read.
 - Use fewer books and expand on the more.
 - Have your children do actions as they repeat a phrase along with you as you read.
 - Ask “what” questions. Point to a picture and say, “What’s that?” or “What is happening here?” Add to what your children say. For example, if your children say, “big truck” then you say, “Yes, a big red fire truck.”
 - Ask open-ended questions like, “What do you think is happening in this picture?”
 - Help your children relate to what is happening in the story to her own experience, for example, “What happened when we went on a picnic?”
- **Repeat** rhymes with your children to help them remember.
 - Talk about what’s happening with all rhymes, even the simplest ones. This gives children more words to know (vocabulary. Ask questions they can respond to, to further develop their narrative skills.
- **Talking** with children develops comprehension skills that will help them understand what they read.
 - Watch television together with your children and talk about the shows you watch. Ask your children what happened in the show. This will help them talk about what is happening in books also.
 - Talk to your children about what you are doing.
 - Tell your children stories. Allow time for your children to reply.
 - Encourage your children to tell you about things. Listen patiently and ask questions.
 - Ask your children to tell you about something that happened during the day.
 - Listen to your children carefully when he talks.
 - Talk about new words with your children.
 - Ask your children to tell you about something that happened. Let him tell you about a picture he drew.