Better Parenting

Pause and Explore the Story

Pause, interact, and help your child make sense of a story.

Helps Your Child Grow



Emergent Literacy

Acting out a picture book and connecting its events with real experiences helps your baby make meaning from the story and build early literacy experience.

Steps

- Reading together is not about rushing to finish a book. It is about helping your child make sense of the story world and connect it with everyday life.
- Choose a book about familiar experiences, such as daily routines, family members, or animals. Real experiences make the content easier to understand.
- Act out what happens. If a bear hugs its mother, give your child a hug so they can experience the action too.
- Use different voices and expressions for the characters to make the story vivid.
- Connect the book with real life. For example, read a bedtime story and lie down to say good night together just as the characters do.
- Your child may not understand the whole story at once. Follow their interest and revisit the same picture book so its meaning can unfold over time.

Tips

- Follow your child's attention as you read. Spend longer on a favorite page, shorten your words when they are ready to turn, and move with their pace.
- When your child looks at you, makes a sound, imitates, or responds with an action, answer with words, movement, or imitation: "You noticed!" or "Let's try it too." This lets them participate rather than only listen.

Observations

- ◯ Acts out part of the story with you
- ◯ Repeats an action from the story when looking at the book again