

RETELLING THE STORY

Looking for ways to retell a story you've read together is beneficial for your child. Often using a puppet or prop to help you makes the experience more engaging for you and your child. The puppet can "act out" the story you read, continue the story with more adventures, and have conversations with your child about what happened in the book. Here are just a few of the areas in which retelling helps your child learn:

- Reinforces the theme of the story
- Encourages conversations
- Assists in the memory of details and sequence of events
- Deepens comprehension

SOMETHING ELSE TO REMEMBER!

Children learn best through their everyday experiences and activities with the people they love and trust and when the learning is fun! It's not about computer/video games, hand-held electronics, and DVD's. It's about spending time with your child engaged in meaningful activities. Enjoy a good book with your child today!

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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EXTENDING THE LEARNING

Doing activities with your child that are connected to the story **after** you've read a good book help to make the learning more concrete. These literature-based projects expand your child's skills and knowledge and make learning more fun!



◆ PLAYING A GAME

It is relatively simple to create fun games that go along with a book you've read with your child. For example, after reading **Hop Jump** by Ellen Stoll Walsh, you can make an easy Leapin' Lilly Pad Game. Collect plastic milk jug lids until you have 10-15. Place a frog sticker (or any kind of sticker) on the flat side of the lid to make your "frogs." Use a green towel or large piece of green felt for the lily pad. Place the "lily pad" on the floor or ground outside, stand a distance away, and toss the "frogs" onto the "lily pad." With your child, count how many "frogs" land on and off the "lily pad" or how many land face up or face down. With this activity you have not only had fun and reinforced the story, but also fostered your child's early math skills!

◆ SINGING SONGS

Make up new songs using old favorites about a story you've read with your child. Pick any children's song you are familiar with such as "Mary Had a Little Lamb" or "Pop Goes the Weasel" and change the words so it becomes a song about the story. For example, after you've read **Little Cloud** by Eric Carle, write a new song to sing with your child such as "Into the Sky" sung to "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

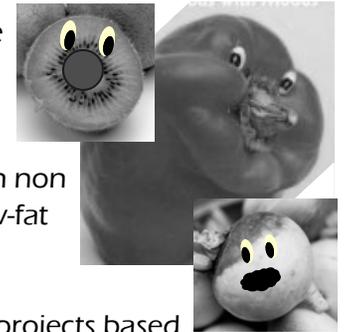
When I look into the sky
I can see the clouds go by.
They don't ever make a sound,
Letting wind push them around.
Some go fast and some go slow,
I wonder where the clouds all go!

This activity is also fun to do with your child and benefits their language development!

◆ ARTS & CRAFTS

How Are You Peeling?: Foods with Moods by Saxton Freymann is a wonderfully creative book where the author has used real photographs of carved fruits and vegetables to illustrate our many different moods and emotions. Using home made or store bought play dough with your child, see if you can duplicate some of his ideas or think of new ones to create together. Or, if you want to have a tasty and healthy snack use real fruits and

vegetables. Take photographs of your creations and then enjoy the produce with non-fat yogurt or low-fat ranch dressing.



Crafting and art projects based on a story help your child with their literacy development and will also build the fine motor skills that will be necessary for later writing. Play dough and clay, in particular, promote muscular strength and coordination in your child's hands and fingers.

◆ REAL LIFE CONNECTIONS

Anytime you can connect the story you have enjoyed to something in your child's life, it makes a connection to the learning. After reading, **Is Your Mama a Llama?** by Deborah Guarino remind your child about the time you went to the zoo. If you haven't been to the zoo, take a trip there and talk about the animals you see that were also in the book.

If the book was about a farm, talk about the time you visited your grandparent's farm or show your child photographs from a family album. You may also find a farm in your area that gives tours.