



Stories Week

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Benefits of Storytelling for Children.

Instils virtues in your little one

Young Children love listening to stories. When you invest adequate time for doing storytelling with them, you are instilling virtues they can carry with them as they grow old. Tell them stories with characters whose values they can emulate or stories with meaningful messages. Taking time to do this inculcates valuable lessons in children and helps them learn about kindness, wisdom, honesty, compassion and more.

Boosts their listening skills

It isn't always easy to hold a child's attention for long. Many Children find it hard to concentrate on something for an extended period of time. They either butt in and do more of the talking or their minds end up wandering somewhere else. However, doing storytelling with your child can help improve their listening skills. They will become more attentive and learn how to increase their focus on a certain topic.

Fosters their imagination.

When children listen to a story, it makes them imagine the characters, the plot, the setting, etc. It's way different from watching something on a screen. Storytelling encourages children's imagination to run wild as the story unfolds. They can imagine the story how ever they want it to look like in their heads. It can even enhance their creativity and make them open to new ideas.

Increases their cultural understanding

Telling stories opens the eyes of young Children to new things – places, culture, traditions. It makes them imagine being in the place of the story's characters which develops their empathy as they try to comprehend their actions.

Enhances their communication skills

Reading and telling stories to children can increase their ability to express themselves. It encourages them to communicate their thoughts, feelings and ideas. When doing storytelling, make sure to encourage your little one to ask questions or discuss their thoughts. As you continue to indulge in a storytelling activity with your little one, they will have a broader vocabulary as they pick up new words.

Help sharpen memory

Storytelling is an excellent way to sharpen your child's memory. When you read them a story, you can do a review or ask them to recall some of the details. Ask them questions and see how much information they have retained.

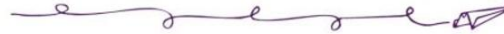
Makes learning easier

Telling stories to your little one is a stepping stone for future academic learning. It's a good way to prepare them for school because it makes learning easier and natural. Like mentioned above, storytelling helps increase a child's focus and concentration which are very important as they begin attending school.

Improves social skills

Through storytelling, children learn how to pay attention and listen actively to the person talking. They learn to be more patient as they listen to others speak. It also opens their eyes to other people's thoughts and understanding how each and every person's opinion vary. Storytelling can teach young Children so many things about the world and life. It gives them plenty of opportunities to learn wonderful ideas and things they have never encountered before. Given these benefits, parents have all the reasons to spend adequate time telling stories with their Children.

Book Scavenger Hunt



Look through your books at home or at school.
How many of these can you find? A book with...

- a superhero
- a mythical creature
- someone shouting
- a story about someone being kind
- a story about someone being unkind
- wild animals
- a mystery
- a sad story
- a moral or a lesson learned
- a happy story
- a rhyming story
- a story about best friends
- something made up
- a twist to the plot
- pictures of planets





Book Scavenger Hunt

Can you find and read a book containing the following things to X a box!

A book with more than 100 pages.	A book with an animal as the main character.	A book that has been made into a movie.	A book/ part of a book which is funny.
A book by your favourite author.	A book with the word 'because'.	Two adjectives	A non-fiction book
A book that is part of a series.	A book that your friend enjoys too.	A word with three syllables.	A book you have read more than once.

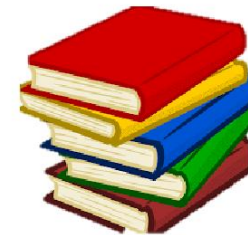
Book Word Search and Hunt

Can you find all the books in the wordsearch below? Once you have found them all why don't you try looking round your home or on your next trip to a library and see if you can find the books from the list

Children's Book Word Search

P	C	U	G	L	Y	D	U	C	K	L	I	N	G
Z	A	C	U	L	T	C	A	P	E	C	N	R	O
R	L	M	N	T	A	R	K	R	A	H	I	P	O
B	L	R	T	R	R	I	L	E	E	A	N	E	S
P	E	S	L	R	Z	E	N	T	L	R	C	T	E
N	R	R	B	L	A	O	R	T	T	L	A	E	B
A	E	E	A	U	N	G	N	O	H	O	T	R	U
A	D	Z	L	A	Y	O	T	P	S	T	I	R	M
U	N	B	O	M	B	E	A	Y	M	T	N	A	P
A	I	R	G	R	E	H	D	R	E	E	H	B	S
B	C	Z	M	B	F	R	I	R	E	S	A	B	R
T	C	I	I	I	I	R	O	A	O	W	T	I	H
L	G	T	A	T	O	P	S	H	T	E	N	T	C
D	H	Z	A	T	D	R	U	U	T	B	U	A	T

FROZEN
CINDERELLA
SPOT
CHARLOTTE'S WEB
GOOSEBUMPS
ELMER
HARRY POTTER
PETER RABBIT
CAT IN HAT
UGLY DUCKLING
TARZAN



Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/3239873/>



Simple storytelling tips

If, like me, you're not a confident storyteller, you could consider:

Telling a story about yourself as a child.

Children love to hear about when their parents were the same age as them, and all the adventures (and mischief!) they got up to. This can also be helpful if your child is facing a change or something they are worried about, as you can empathise by telling them about how you found the same experience as a child and describe how you overcame it.

Telling your child, a story about themselves when they were younger.

Children love hearing stories about themselves when they were a baby or toddler. They are especially delighted when you tell them how they used to pronounce different words.

Swapping your child for a little animal (eg. a mouse) and then talking about their day.

This is a really effective way to help your child process their day or any other experiences they may be going through. Pick a character that your child loves, be it a dinosaur, tiger, or rabbit, and then you can tell a simple story which retells your child's day or which reflects eg. starting nursery or going to the dentist, whatever is on your child's mind. "Once upon a time there was a soft little grey rabbit called Hoppy. She woke up early one sunny morning and bounced out of her bed, through her sandy burrow to her mummy and daddy who were still fast asleep and snoring..."



Using wordless picture books as inspiration.

"Reading" wordless picture books with children is a wonderful way for both parents and children to develop their storytelling skills, and even the least confident storytellers will be able to make up a simple story using the illustrations as prompts.

Retelling a fairy tale, fable, or story you know well.

I'll happily admit to not being the most confident storyteller, but even I can retell Goldilocks and the Three Bears or Stone Soup in my own words.

Using story cubes, stones or cards as prompts.

Sometimes we just need a nudge or two to give us some ideas and get those creative juices flowing. There are lots of ideas online, and you can either buy them or make your own.

Setting up a little "puppet show" with a few simple props.

This was something I picked from a play group: each week the leader would set up a simple, seasonal scene with the same two dolls named Rosie and Sam, and their little felt dog Pip. She would tell the simplest of stories accompanied by a seasonal verse or song – the dolls would collect a pumpkin for soup, or walk in the snow, or notice a daffodil growing – but the children would be transfixed.





Go play Sandwell

Oldbury

Rowley Regis

Smethwick

Tipton

Wednesbury

West Bromwich

Spot The Difference

There are 6 differences in the pictures below. Can you find them?



Scan QR code to listen to the story of little red riding hood.

SCAN ME!



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A BRIEF HISTORY OF NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS

_____ the new year is an ancient
 (Verb -ing)

_____, starting _____ years ago in
 (noun) (large number)

_____. Around the year _____,
 (place) (large number)

Babylonians started the _____ year when
 (adjective)

spring began, celebrating for _____ days.
 (number)

The Roman emperor _____ Caesar
 (First Name)

moved the _____ year to the first
 (adjective)

_____ of January in the year _____.
 (noun) (number)

Today _____ celebrate the _____
 (plural noun) (adjective)

year all over the world on January _____,
 (number)

with parties, _____, and _____
 (plural noun) (adjective)

_____.
 (plural noun)

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Weird and Wonderful Facts about your favourite books as a Child

1. The idea for *Charlotte's Web* came from E.B. White's fascination with the (many!) spiders in his own home.

White brought a spider egg sac from his farm in Maine to his apartment in New York. He then allowed the hatched baby spiders free reign of his pad, until his cleaner complained.

2. Eric Carle got the idea for *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* from...playing with a hole punch.

"One day I was punching holes with a hole puncher into a stack of paper, and I thought of a bookworm," Carle has said of the book's unexpected origins. As such, he originally named the story *A Week With Willi the Worm*, before his editor suggested a caterpillar instead.

3. The steps taken by Alice in *Alice: Through the Looking Glass* make up a playable game of chess (though not necessarily an efficient one).

"At two points the White Queen passes up a chance to checkmate and on another occasion she flees from the Red Knight when she could have captured him," *The Annotated Alice* author Martin Gardner has said of the moves/plot. "Both oversights, however, are in keeping with her absent-mindedness."

4. Everything you thought you knew about *Madeline's* characters is apparently untrue.

John Bemelmans Marciano, grandson of *Madeline* creator Ludwig Bemelmans and the author and illustrator of recent titles in the series, says most people have the story all wrong.

"It's not an orphanage; [Miss Clavel is] not a nun; and Madeline is not French," Marciano told NPR in 2013. "I used to get almost indignant over it, but these things take on a life of their own and sometimes misperceptions are the stuff of legends." Sacrebleu — I mean, whoops!

5. In the Australian version of *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*, Alexander wants to move to Timbuktu.

Alexander's seeming belief that bad days don't happen in Australia is a running gag in the original book. But what about the printing for Australians, who know better than that? Turns out, Timbuktu was the answer.

6. *Bridge to Terabithia* author Katherine Paterson didn't realize at first that she'd kind of snatched the kingdom's name from *The Chronicles of Narnia*.

"I thought I'd made up 'Terabithia,'" Paterson says on her website. "I realized when the book was nearly done, that there is an island in *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* by C. S. Lewis called 'Terebinthia.' I'm sure I borrowed that unconsciously ... [and] Lewis got Terebinthia from the Biblical terebinth tree, so it wasn't original with him either."

7. In 1929, J.M. Barrie gifted Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children his *Peter Pan* rights, which have benefited the organization ever since.