

# DIY

## Storytime

Practice using the tools of the trade to become the Storytime star in your home!

With content from:

Every **CH**ILD  
Ready to **READ**  
© your library

Use these cards as a guide but become familiar with the tips and activities before Storytime so you can use your own style, wording, and transitions.

*When written in italics, these are things for you to do, not say.*

### DIY Modeling (Pick 1-2)

A book paired with an early literacy tip for you to present.

### DIY Skill Building (Pick 1-2)

An early literacy tip paired with an activity that the parent and child do together with a book you pass out.

### DIY Active (Pick 2-4)

A rhyme, song, or activity that you facilitate, paired with a practical tip.

Remind parents these activities work for all ages!

If the child can not fully participate in the activity, that's ok. Younger children and babies will benefit from the conversation and interactions with mom and dad.

Repeating activities with the same group in subsequent DIY Storytimes is fine, because this repetition reinforces learning.

### Opening

Welcome to DIY Storytime where you become the Storyteller with your child!

Your child will follow your lead so be sure to participate in all the activities and songs.

*Hello Song*

### DIY Modeling

It's important to pick books that both you and your child like so reading is a fun time for both of you.

*Read one of your favorite picture books to the group. After, ask the parents and children to tell each other what their favorite book is and why.*

### **DIY Modeling**

Reading with expression helps keep your child engaged in the story.

*Start reading a book in a boring tone then after a few pages change to reading with expression.*

### **DIY Modeling**

Books help children learn about the world around them which will help them gain comprehension skills.

*Read a non-fiction book (or part of a non-fiction book) to the group. After, have the parents and children discuss one new thing they learned.*

### **DIY Modeling**

Reading books that talk about emotions can help children identify their own emotions.

*Read a book, like "Grumpy Bird," that incorporates emotions. After, have the parent and child discuss one emotion they felt that day.*

### **DIY Modeling**

Reading together is a great way to increase vocabulary because books use more rare words than TV or even everyday conversation.

*Read a book to the group, stopping to explain unusual words. Pick a word you explained and have the families make up a story using that word together.*

### **DIY Modeling**

Shared interactive reading is the most important activity you can do to help your child get ready to read. Have fun predicting what might happen next.

*Read a book to the group and stop twice to ask what they think will happen next.*

### **DIY Modeling**

Children learn language and increase comprehension skills by listening to you talk.

*Do a "picture walk" with the group. Instead of reading the book, ask questions about the pictures on the page. Have the parents ask their child a question about what they see.*

### DIY Modeling

Children who enjoy being read to are more likely to want to learn how to read.

*Read a book to the group and then tell them what your favorite part was. Have parents and child discuss what their favorite part was.*

### DIY Modeling

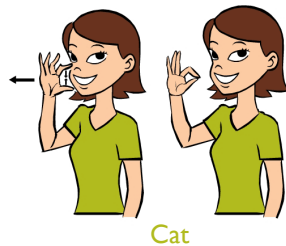
Reading together encourages imaginative thinking.

*After you read a book to the group, make up a new ending for it. Have the parents and children discuss, if they were the author how would they have ended the story?*

### DIY Modeling

Including sign language makes reading even more interactive and engaging. Follow your child's interest in the books you read together and the signs you choose.

*Read a story with an animal in it and demonstrate that sign.*



### DIY Modeling

Sign language helps children to think symbolically by showing them that a gesture can stand for an object, just as a word can symbolize an object.

*Pick a book and before and after reading it to the group, practice the sign for book.*



### DIY Skill Building

Most of the time when you are reading to your child they are looking at the pictures, not the words.

While reading this book, run your finger under the words so your child connects that the words you are reading are the words on the page.

### DIY Skill Building

One of the first words that children love to write is their name!

As you read this book together, count the number of times you spot the first letter of his/her name.

### **DIY Skill Building**

Making connections to the future or past helps children understand that language represents events that are not happening right now.

When you read this book, connect a character or event to something that recently happened.

*Model this with a page in a book.*

### **DIY Skill Building**

To become good readers, children need to be able to hear the smaller sounds in words.

When reading this book together, clap out the syllables for the last word on each page.

*Model this with a page in a book.*

### **DIY Skill Building**

Children need to understand that the words they hear are made up of written letters.

Before reading this book together, choose one word on each page and sound it out slowly for your child while pointing to it.

*Model this with a page.*

### **DIY Skill Building**

To be good readers, children need good comprehension skills.

After reading this book, summarize (or have your child summarize) what it was about.

### **DIY Skill Building**

Reading together helps children understand how books work.

Before reading this book together, discuss which side is the back cover, which is the front cover, and identify who the author and illustrator are.

### **DIY Skill Building**

Children need to be able to play with the smaller sounds in words.

Instead of reading this book, find every “c” in it. Discuss if the “c” make the “k” sound, the “s” sound, or the “ch” sound?

### **DIY Skill Building**

The more language experiences your child has, the more they will understand what they read.

In this exercise, while reading this book together, pick one word on each page and explain it.

*Model with a page from a book.*

### **DIY Skill Building**

Children can learn to sound out words while still not knowing what they mean. Both decoding and comprehension are important reading skills.

Before you read this book, tell your child to stop you if you read a word they don't understand.

### **DIY Skill Building**

Reading together helps children understand that stories have a beginning, a middle, and an end.

After you read this book together, make up a new ending for the story.

### **DIY Skill Building**

Shared reading helps children build a large vocabulary.

When reading this book together, point to the picture of the object on the page when you say the object name.

*Model with a page from a book.*

### **DIY Skill Building**

Children learn best when they are actively involved.

Before reading this book together, look at the cover and ask your child what they think it is about.

### **DIY Skill Building**

Asking questions while reading helps increase comprehension.

While reading this book, pick two places to ask your child, "What do you think will happen next?"

### **DIY Skill Building**

Children connect that written words stand for spoken language when seeing print in everyday life.

As you read this book together, have your child point to the first word on every page.

*Model this with a book.*

### **DIY Skill Building**

Children need to gain fine and gross motor skills to be ready to write in kindergarten.

Before reading, have you and your child use your index fingers to “write” the title of the book in the air.

*Model this with a book.*

### **DIY Skill Building**

Labeling helps children understand that words stand for objects.

Before reading, flip through the book and have your child name some of the objects you see in the pictures.

*Model this with a book.*

### **DIY Skill Building**

Children need to be able to think symbolically to understand that written words stand for real objects and experiences.

Connect what happens in the book to real experiences. Ex: There is a dog on this page, remember when you saw a dog at the park?

### **DIY Skill Building**

Playing pretend helps children develop oral language skills.

After reading this book together, pretend you are in the story and make up what would happen next.

### **DIY Skill Building**

Retelling stories helps children to verbalize what they are thinking.

After reading this book together, retell what happened in the story replacing character names with family member names.

### **DIY Active**

Do letter knowledge building activities while driving, waiting in the doctor's office, or shopping in the grocery store.

*Pick a letter of the day and look for things around the room that start with that same letter.*

### **DIY Active**

You can practice writing wherever you are. No crayon or pencil needed.

*Pick a letter of the day and have the group practice sky-writing the capital and lowercase letter.*

### **DIY Active**

Make learning letters fun by using activities that are not just pencil and paper.

*Pick a letter of the day and make that letter using masking tape on the floor. Have the group trace the letter by walking on it.*

### **DIY Active**

Make changes in songs to incorporate opposites.

*Sing the Itsy Bitsy Spider twice using opposites.*

*(Ex: Very quiet then very loud or very slow then very fast)*

### **DIY Active**

Use, or make up, songs that include labeling items to help children learn object names.

*Sing Head Shoulders Knees and Toes together, but before singing have the children find their own head, shoulders, knees, and toes, as well as their parents'.*

### **DIY Active**

Change words in songs to introduce new vocabulary.

*Row, Row, Row, Your Boat*

*Row, Row, Row, Your Canoe*

*Row, Row, Row, Your Raft*

### DIY Active

Incorporate sign language into daily life. This is especially easy to do with songs.

Use the sign for “happy” as you sing “If You’re Happy and You Know It” as a group.



### DIY Active

Try out Freegal to download fun new children’s songs at home.

Sing a song found on Freegal, like “The Goldfish” by Laurie Berkner.

\*Prep Needed

### DIY Active

When singing Wheels on the Bus add animals, first asking your child what sound it makes.

*The dogs on the bus go woof, woof, woof*  
*The mice on the bus go squeak, squeak, squeak*

### DIY Active

Turn songs into math activities by counting how many words are in the title or main phrase

*Sing Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star, first counting the words.*

### DIY Active

Make information easier to remember by adding rhythm and movement.

*Sing Open Shut Them.*

### DIY Active

Change words in rhymes to include your child’s favorites.

*This little piggy went to the library*

*This little piggy stayed home*

*This little piggy had watermelon*

*This little piggy had none*

### **DIY Active**

Increase motor skills by clapping along to rhymes.

*Say Humpty Dumpty, or another nursery rhyme, and clap along.*

### **DIY Active**

Use tissues instead of scarves to do this same type of activity at home.

*Sing your favorite scarf song like “Peek-a-Boo.”*

\*Scarves needed

### **DIY Active**

Use rice and an empty water bottle to do this same type of activity at home.

*Sing your shaker song like “The Freeze” by Greg and Steve.*

\*Shaker Eggs Needed

### **DIY Active**

Find songs that you like too so singing and dancing together will be fun for both of you.

*Pick one of your favorite songs to use with the group.*

### **DIY Active**

Use songs that have directions to increase listening skills.

*Sing a song like “Tooty-Ta”*

### **Closing**

Developing early literacy skills now will make it easier for your child to learn to read when he or she starts school.

*Goodbye Song*