

# Let's Share a Story

When we share stories with each other, we all learn together! Young children enjoy hearing about the world around them. Stories help us share culture and traditions, so we learn about each other and people around us. Telling stories is a form of literacy, and it builds other valuable literacy skills, too!



## 5 Tips and Ideas

- **Talk about what you already know.**

You can share a story about your day, or share a memory about a child's favourite blanket or toy. Talk about the world around you. It could be an old story you learned, or it can be a new one.

- **Share stories anywhere, about anything.**

Stories are everywhere! You could talk about a favourite memory while you wait in line at the grocery store. At bedtime is great, too; but also try a story while you're on the bus, in the car, or outside exploring.

- **Make it personal for each child.**

Try adding things from each child's life into a story, or using each child's name for a character. This helps a child imagine fun adventures through the stories you tell them. You can also talk about when they were born, when you adopted them, or the first day you met them.

- **Listen, and let the child tell a story.**

Children of all ages have stories, too. Even if it doesn't seem like it makes sense to us, show the child that you're listening. Ask questions about the story, and show emotions that you think the story is about (is it a sad story? a funny one?). Children learn from how you respond.

- **Change things to make it even more interesting.**

Use different voices and gestures. Show the emotions in the story. Change what happens in the story based on how the child reacts.



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Stories connect us...



... **to each other.** Sharing stories helps build bonds between us. Even when the stories are about other people and events, we connect more to the people we share stories with.

... **to our culture and heritage.** Every family has a culture and shares a heritage, even with the places where they live. Learn about your own, and the cultures around you. Stories help us share and understand.

... **to our emotions and values.** Stories share what is important to us, and show us how (and why!) to do things in different situations.

## Did you know?

- Sharing stories builds an emotional bond between children, their families, and language. This helps prepare children for the future.
- When you share stories, you are helping children learn and share information. This helps children build skills to listen, remember, imagine, and share their ideas.
- Sharing stories gives children a sense of belonging. Children learn about their world, and how they connect to their family or the people around them. This helps build confidence and social skills.



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