

# Storytelling

[fyi.uwex.edu/parentingthepreschooler/](http://fyi.uwex.edu/parentingthepreschooler/)

## Tips for starting the story

- ◆ Tell a story about the last time you felt thankful.
- ◆ Ask children to tell a story about their favorite animal or holiday.
- ◆ During the story ask questions that provide clues, such as “what color is it?” or “why do you like it?”
- ◆ Have fun describing the location or setting where the story takes place. Add details such as time of day or night, sunny or cloudy, hot or cold, and inside or outside.
- ◆ Build the story’s characters – who are they; what do they look like; what is their personality? Help children visualize the characters.
- ◆ Tell favorite stories more than one time. After children hear the same story multiple times, they can help you tell it!



Photograph by Lisa Boyer



Photograph by Lisa Woelbing

## Why tell stories?

Children who hear storytelling are better storytellers themselves. This can have a positive impact on school success. Storytelling benefits both younger and older children. Storytelling is fun for everyone no matter what age (and no batteries required!).

## Anytime...anywhere

Telling stories and reading books to children is a 24/7 activity with low to no cost. Have some fun together with children creating a story that has a clear beginning, middle, and end. Add some suspense and surprises to keep children's attention.



Photograph by Carol LaCasse

# Family storytelling matters!

Telling family stories helps children develop a sense of belonging in their family. Benefits are best when stories are personal and meaningful to the storyteller. What stories do you remember from your childhood? What makes them special? What makes you remember them?

Sharing family stories with children is a great way to connect parents and other adults with children. Tell stories that relate to children's lives

right now. For example, if a child just got a pet, tell them about your first pet.

Holidays and birthdays are an ideal time to start a family storytelling tradition. When family gathers, put everyone's name in a hat and have each person select a name. Take turns and have each family member tell a story about the person they picked. (Big groups can do this over several days!)

## UW-Extension Family Living Programs

"Raising Kids, Eating Right, Spending Smart, Living Well"



For more information, please contact your county UW-Extension office:

<http://counties.uwex.edu/>

[Link To References](#)

Copyright © 2015 by the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System doing business as the division of Cooperative Extension of the University of Wisconsin-Extension. All rights reserved.

An EEO/Affirmative Action employer, the University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA requirements.