



All children love story time. By using these simple guidelines you can engage young children during story time and make books come to life.

### Supplies

- ★ Storybooks –(Stories that use sounds, repetition, rhyme, or song will pique kids' interest.)
- ★ Hand-puppets
- ★ Simple props

# Innovations in Storytelling

Skills Learned: Language / Literacy Skills, Memory Skills, Use of Imagination

### Directions

- 1 Prepare the children for a story and build their interest by posing some questions that relate to the story.
- 2 Begin the story with some questions left unanswered, (This keeps interest high and also demonstrates that information can be found in books!)
- 3 At appropriate times, invite the children to make sounds or movements that the characters in the story would make. (e.g., roar like the lion, chirp like the bird, sway like the trees in the wind, etc.)
- 4 Feel free to incorporate hand puppets or other props to make the story come alive even more.
- 5 If the children have truly enjoyed a story, don't hesitate to repeat it! (Children love repetition in stories and to hear favorite stories again and again.)
- 6 If you have used props or puppets, leave them available for the children and invite them to use the puppets and props to re-tell the story at a later time.

It is not always important to finish a story. If the children are interested in a particular page of the book, explore that page with them. Use their interest to interact with them and ask questions about why they like that page. You can always go back to a story later by remembering with them where you left off and reviewing with them what already happened.

**Tips for Mixed Ages:** Infants will listen to your voice and hear the different tones and the enthusiasm conveyed in your voice. Toddlers will begin repeating their favorite parts. Preschoolers and older children will enjoy re-telling some of their favorite stories by "reading" the books, and/or using the puppets and props to re-tell it.

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Major funding provided by



Corporation  
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Broadcasting

A production of KCET/Los Angeles in association with Sesame Workshop.  
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