

Family Activities: Oral Language and Storytelling

Games:

- Children's games such as I Spy, Red Light/Green Light, Simon Says, Who Stole the Cookie, Mother May I, etc.
- Skipping and clapping chants

Interviews/Talk Shows:

- Encourage children to conduct oral interviews with friends, family members, neighbours, etc.
- Children can take characters from favourite books/television/movies and place them in a talk show situation.
- Provide an audience for interviews/talk shows

Music/Poems/Predictable Books:

- Sing, read, and chant together
- Stop in the middle of a song/poem/chant and encourage your child to fill in the missing rhyming word or phrase
- Make up new verses or change old ones
- Make up fun songs about everyday activities
- Read/sing books based on songs

One line at a time story:

- Each person adds to the story one line at a time.
- ABC story (each new line must begin with the next letter of the alphabet)
- Stop mid-sentence to leave the story dangling for the next person to pick up (Just then he felt the rocks slipping from beneath his feet and...)
- Begin each sentence by using fortunately/unfortunately in an alternating manner (Fortunately, he grabbed hold of

a branch as he slid down the hill. Unfortunately, the branch was not rooted to anything.)

- Summer camping trips provide the perfect opportunity for storytelling around the campfire.

Talk Time

- Take time everyday to talk with your children.
- Use rare and interesting vocabulary to enrich your child's language development.
- Ask and answer questions.
- Ask open ended questions that encourage discussion rather than yes/no or one word responses ("Tell me about your day at school" rather than "How was school?" or "Did you have a good day?")
- Discuss family traditions.
- Tell stories from when you were a child. Talk about parents, grandparents, special events in your life, etc.
- Have your child tell you stories about holidays, birthdays, vacations, etc.
- Talk about what you are doing and why you are doing it.
- Talk about books you are reading, television shows you are watching, situations you encounter together, etc.
- Ask children to express their opinions and explain their choices.
- Listen to what your children have to say.

Wordless Books/Predictable Books

- Have children predict what will come next
- Look through the pictures and have the kids tell their own story
- Encourage them to talk about/describe the pictures

