







### Telling a story or describing what happened

Telling a story lets us share real and imagined experiences with each other. Children depend on all of their language skills for these complex speaking tasks.

To help children tell a story or describe what happened, you can:

Repeat children's stories and add on extra words, and

Model how to describe what happened in your own talking.

Play with telling a story: Describe what happened in your play together



#### **Play...**pretend play

Pretend to be a fire fighter, a chef, or a vet. Repeat your child's sentences in play, and add on more words to tell a story.

Child: Oh no, a fire!

You: There's a fire in the factory!



#### At home...bumps and scrapes

Your child will tell you about scrapes and bumps. Repeat your child's story and add on more words to describe when, where, and what happened.

Child: I hurt my knee.

You: Oh dear! Yesterday you hurt your knee at the park!



#### Out and about...visiting a friend

Describe an activity you shared with your child when you are visiting a friend, or at preschool drop-off.

Friend: How was your weekend?

You: We went on the train.

Child: On the train!



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Read with stories: Visit the library and borrow some books

Alexander's Outing by Pamela Allen Terrible Tim! by Katie Haworth Diary of a Wombat by Jackie French

# Words that tell a story: Use these words in your day

Stories and descriptions take listeners beyond the here-and-now to another place or experience. We include words about:

When: on my birthday, when it snowed, this morning, on the weekend, yesterday Who: Grandma, my family, my friend at day-care, dinosaur, fire fighter, wombat

Where: at preschool, in the backyard, under my bed, inside, at the park

### Learn about telling a story: Ways to help language grow

When you **repeat children's stories** and **add on** extra words, you are:

- Showing that you understand what they have said, and
- Showing how to add more details next time.

When you model how to describe what happened in your own talking, you are:

- Providing the best opportunity for the descriptions to be meaningful to children, and
- Helping them to tell more of their own stories.

Children do not have to repeat words after you. The more often children hear different ways to tell stories and describe what happened, the more likely they will understand and use these more complex speaking tasks in their own talking.

Speech pathology key terms: early recount and narrative, expansion, modelling.



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