



HELLO PARENTS,

We all love a good story. Stories can create other worlds, evoke emotions, and promote new ideas. They can make us laugh, cry, jump with fright and then comfort us with a happy ending. Stories can be told through a narrative, poetry, song, movement, pictures and plays. Engaging children in storytelling increases their ability to express themselves, communicate their ideas and emotions, and expand their vocabulary. In this newsletter, we encourage you and your child to immerse yourselves in the world of storytelling.

ACTIVITIES

INFANTS (3 – 18 MONTHS)

A STORY IN THE BOX

MATERIALS:

- Toys
- Box

DIRECTIONS:

- Put several of your child's favourite toys in a box.
- Place the box next to your child and encourage them to explore the toys in it.
- Come up with a story, song or rhyme based on the toys that your child chooses. Use gestures and actions throughout your story.
- Encourage your child to join you and imitate your actions and facial expressions.

[Click here](#) for story ideas.

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

REMEMBER WHEN...

MATERIALS:

- Photos of your child

DIRECTIONS:

- Together with your child look at the photos and talk about what happened in them. For example, you can say: "Remember when you visited your grandparents? What did you do with them?"
- Encourage your child to choose their favourite photos and talk about them.
- This activity will help your child recollect past events and put them in a chronological sequence.

[Click here](#) for more ideas.

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

THE STORY OF ME

MATERIALS:

- Bag

DIRECTIONS:

- Tell your child that they will create a story of themselves.
- Invite your child to choose a few objects that represent them or are important to them. For example: their favourite toy, something that they used in infancy, something they really like, etc.
- Put the objects in a bag.
- Ask your child to pick the objects one by one and explain why they chose them and what made these objects special.
- You can invite other family members to listen to your child telling "The Story of Me".

[Click here](#) for more ideas.

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

STORY STONES

MATERIALS:

- Smooth flat stones
- Basket
- Stickers or cut-outs from magazines or flyers with your child's favourite cartoon or book characters
- Glue or clear tape

DIRECTIONS:

- Help your child to glue the stickers or cut-outs to the stones.
- Place the stones in a basket.
- Ask your child to choose a stone from the basket and start a story based on the picture on the stone that they have chosen.
- Draw another stone from the basket and continue the story.
- Take turns choosing the stones and adding to the story line.

[Click here](#) for more ideas.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

STORYTELLING PROMPTS JAR

MATERIALS:

- Pencil
- Several strips of paper
- Jar

DIRECTIONS:

- Invite your friends or family members to sit in a circle.
- Have each player write a random word or phrase on a strip of paper.
- Collect all the words or phrases, fold them and put them in the jar.
- The players take turns drawing a piece of paper from the jar and telling a story using the word or phrase on the paper.
- If someone gets stuck, you can use prompts, such as:
 - "What does your character see or hear?"
 - "Who else is there?"
 - "What does the place look like?"
- To make the storytelling more challenging, each player can draw two or three words or phrases and incorporate them into the story.

[Click here](#) for more storytelling activities.



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada

A TIP FOR TODAY

- Read books as part of your child's daily routines.
- Combine music, body language, and props to make the storytelling as interesting and engaging as possible.
- Allow time for your child's questions and discussions.
- Encourage your child to invent and/or write their own stories.
- Set up a story box with simple props and aids such as: toys, everyday objects, dress-up clothes, books, puppets, etc.