

Family Stories



Children love to hear family stories. As they listen, they learn. Every time you tell about “the time when,” you help your children learn to talk. You also help them see who they are and where they came from. They’ll feel good about themselves — and closer to you.

Share family stories with:

Infants

Telling family stories teaches your baby the sounds and rhythms of language — the first step to learning to talk and read. Stories also help her get to know her family.

- › *Show your baby family pictures.* Point to and talk about the people in the pictures.
- › *Tell family stories again and again.* Talk about where you grew up or your favorite pet.
- › *Make stories part of your day.* Before a nap or bedtime, talk about when you were a child.

Toddlers

Your child learns about her history and culture from family stories. She also learns new words and builds her language skills.

- › *Help your child remember family stories.* Pick a day. Say, “Remember when you went to the park with Grandma and Grandpa?” Let your child tell the story in her own way.

Toddlers, continued

- › *Ask questions to help her remember.* Say, “Did you play ball with Grandma?”
- › *Take pictures when your family is together.* Put them in a book. Use them to tell a story.

Preschoolers

Family stories help a child learn to love language, family, and storytelling.

- › *Tell stories about your traditions and rituals.* What kinds of food do you eat? Do you sing special songs at birthdays?
- › *Find old family pictures or letters.* Help your child put these things in a book. Write down what you learned about each thing.
- › *Tell or act out family stories using stuffed animals or dolls.* A teddy bear can be Uncle Joe or a baby doll can be little cousin Anna.

Born LearningSM is a public engagement campaign helping parents, caregivers and communities create early learning opportunities for young children. Designed to support you in your critical role as a child's first teacher, Born Learning educational materials are made available through the efforts of United Way, United Way Success By 6 and Civitas. For more information, visit us online at www.bornlearning.org.



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