

What Happens Next?

Primary Objectives

18b. Uses emergent reading skills

Why It's Important

Engaging your child in story retelling increases his interest in books and being read to. When you ask simple questions about what happens next in a story, your child has the opportunity to contribute to the reading process.

Materials

Picture books

What You Do

1. Become familiar with the book before reading it to your child. You may also want to choose a book that is familiar to your child, as well.
2. Invite your child to read a story with you. Find a comfortable place to sit and share the book together.
3. As you read, pause several times to ask, *Do you know what happens next?*
4. Allow him ample time to respond. Offer clues as needed. *Yes, the boy makes a boat out of a tree's trunk.*
5. Continue to ask your child what happens next as you read the rest of the story. When you are finished, show your child where to find the book so he can look at it later. Encourage him to explore familiar books throughout the day.
6. Read other books for as long as your child is interested. Give him ample time to flip through the pages and examine the pictures at his own pace.