

Family Activities

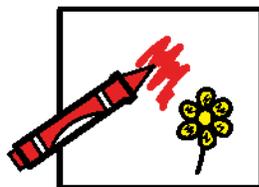


Readiness Skill: Uses pictures to tell a story

Young children begin to explore writing through the use of drawings. Drawings are a way for them to express their ideas on paper. Drawing is an important first step in the writing process. Below you will find fun activities that will help your child learn to use pictures to tell their stories.

Model, Model, Model

One of the best ways to encourage your child to use pictures to tell a story is for you to provide many opportunities to model this with your child. With drawing materials on hand, sit with your child and you're your own simple pictures to tell a story. As you illustrate your picture you should describe to him or her what you are drawing. For example, you may choose to tell a story about a visit to the park.

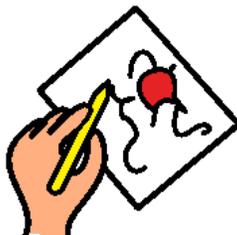


"I would like to tell you a story. As I tell you my story, I will draw pictures to go with it. This is how the story goes . . . Once upon a time a little girl went to the park. At the park she saw many things. She saw a red bird, a brown squirrel and a yellow flower."

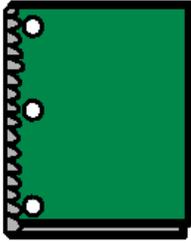
Over time as you tell more and more stories through drawing, your child will begin to associate the drawings with the events that are occurring in the story. After plenty of practice you should provide your child with opportunities to tell their own stories through drawing.

Encouraging Writing Skills at Home

Provide your child with a supply of drawing/writing materials that may include paper, crayons, markers, pencils, or paints. Encourage your child to use these materials to express their ideas and to tell stories. Invite your child to tell you about their drawings. Be sure to show off their work by displaying it in a visible location such as on the refrigerator.



My Book of Drawings



You can help your child make their very own book for their drawings by stapling sheets of paper together or using an inexpensive notebook that can be found at any store. This will be a special place for him or her to jot down their drawings, ideas and stories. Place the completed book with your child's other collection of books to share again and again.

Favorite Part of the Story

Reading to your child every day is a great way for your child to see how drawings can be used to tell a story. There are many children's picture books that lend themselves well to this. Be sure to talk with him or her as you read the story by asking questions such as, "What do you see happening in this picture?" "Who are the characters in this story?" "What was your favorite part of the story?" Provide your child with drawing materials and invite him or her to draw a picture of their favorite part of the story.



Picture Books

Children's picture books lend themselves well to reinforcing these early writing skills. Help your child pick out some favorites to enjoy again and again.



Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak
The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown
The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein
The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats
Make Way for Ducklings by Robert McCloskey