



# Make Storytelling Part of Your Day

Telling stories is a natural part of everyday conversations, and also helps children to understand written stories once they learn to read. At first, children may share events out of order or miss important details. You can help by retelling past events together, talking about stories in books, and making up new stories. Here are some ways to encourage storytelling:

## Play Time

While playing with figurines, act out a familiar story from a book or TV show – e.g., Marshall putting out a beach fire on Paw Patrol. You could say, “Marshall’s driving to the beach fire, like we saw on TV!” If the child agrees, you could say, “Chase was there too, to help put the fire out. What did they do next?”



## Daily Activities

At mealtime, relate a favourite food to a special event. If the child says, “Pizza is my favourite!”, you could respond, “Yes, you love pizza. Remember when we ran out of cheese for your giant birthday pizza?” Wait for the child to respond, then build on their idea to help them to tell a story about their experience.

## On the Go

When walking in the park, link what the child notices to a memory. If they say, “I lost my shovel,” while watching other children, you could respond, “Yes, you did lose your shovel! How did that happen?” If needed, offer clues to help the child tell the story – e.g., “I think we dropped it on the way home, remember?”



## Book Reading

While reading a familiar book, retell the story together. For example, in *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly*, the child might say, “She ate a fly!” You could respond, “Yes! First, she ate a...fly. Then, she ate a...spider!” while pointing to each creature in the pictures and pausing to let the child join in.

## Notes