

Telling stories is a wonderful way to increase children's vocabulary.

As you tell a story, use new words and explain what they mean, or talk about something your child hasn't experienced and explain what happens.

Here are some storytelling tips. Remember that almost any story you tell your child will be of interest—just because you are the one telling it!

- For infants and toddlers, start with silly sounds. Children delight in mimicking the sounds you make. This is just the beginning of having conversations with your child.
- Use simple props such as a puppet or a stuffed animal to tell a story. Use silly voices for different characters and ask your child to join in.
- Use family photos to tell different stories.
- Make a book by clipping photos from magazines. Use them to tell an imaginary tale.
- Encourage your child to tell a story about a favorite event, or act it out.

