

Talking about TV shows:

Do this activity with a video your child has watched many times or with a picture book your child has read many times or use a show that is slow moving and has lots of repetition (e.g., Barney).

- Talk about the beginning, middle and end of the story. Help your child say things in the right order.
- Talk about events and characters that are real and events and characters that are pretend.
- Ask your child questions about opinions, thoughts and feelings (why do you think she left? How do you think she felt?)
- Let your child draw a picture of what the show was about.
- Encourage your child to act out his/her favorite part with dolls or stuffed animals.



By— Angela Notari Syverson, Ph.D.
With Kristen Rytter, Judy Challoner, Faith Sadler, Young Sook Lim, Marilyn Sturm and Rodd Hedlund – Washington Research Institute, Seattle, WA 2006©

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Florida Diagnostic Learning Resource Systems
P.O. Box 391
Bartow, Fla. 33830

Child Find (863) 647-4262

<http://fdlrs.polk-fl.net>



Supporting Early Literacy In Natural Environments

Activities for Caregivers and Young Children

Talking About Food:

To help your child succeed, you can:

- Talk about how food tastes, smells and feels.
- Ask your child simple questions about his/her food (Does your cookie taste sweet?).
- Do activities while you and your child are cooking in the kitchen.
- Encourage your child to describe food with more than one word (orange, juicy, sour).
- Have your child practice counting raisins and nuts and compare their sizes and quantities (more or less, big or little)
- Ask your child harder questions about food (Is an apple a fruit or a vegetable?)
- Talk about where foods come from and how they are made.

Talking about what happened in the Past

- Talk about what your child really enjoyed.
- Talk about something that happens regularly.
- Ask your child simple questions (Did grandma give you a big hug?)
- Show your child pictures or photographs of what happened (birthday cake, presents).
- Begin a sentence and let your child fill in the blank (At the park we saw three ___?)
- Help your child tell things in the right order (What did you do first?)
- Let your child write simple sentences under pictures they drew about the activity.
- Help your child staple the pictures together to make a book.
- Encourage your child to read the book to others.

Talking about what will happen next!

- Ask your child simple questions about what they think will happen next (Will Goldie-Locks break the chair?)
- Show your child a picture of what will happen next in his/her daily activities (going to school, going to bed) discuss them.
- Begin a sentence and let your child fill in the blank (Next, we need to add some ___?)

To Make this activity more challenging.....

- Ask your child what will happen next when he/she is playing make-believe.
- Ask your child what will happen tomorrow.
- Ask your child what he/she thinks will happen at a special event (a birthday party, visiting grandma, etc.)

Talking about things outside:

- Talk about something your child can touch or feel.
- Ask your child questions about things he/she is really interested in (ball, mud, butterflies).
- Ask your child simple questions (Is this rock smooth?)
- Help your child describe things with more than one word (brown, smooth, hard).
- Describe something nearby and see if your child can find it. Let your child do the same.
- Play with your child by putting things into categories (Beetles are insects, and acorn is a nut, a rose is a flower).
- Talk about how things would look different in other weather conditions or times of the day.
- Ask your child to imagine how things would look different if your child were the size of an ant.