Bring the story to life with these 10 storytelling tips

Unlock the magic of storytelling and master the skills to keep your kids entertained until the last page with these useful tips.

Chapter 1 — Use your voice

Switch your pitch

Every book is filled with different adventures. Use your voice as a tool, shifting up and down to follow every twist and turn.

Keep it moving!

Switching between a high and low pitch will make happy endings feel even happier, giving your kids something more to celebrate.

Narration

Putting on a special voice announces to kids that it's officially story time. Trying a different accent each time also helps your little ones learn words faster.

Dialogue

It makes it easier for your little ones to know which character is speaking when you give them different accents.

Break it down

Reading to your little ones is a chance to bond, so savor every moment! Take your time strolling through the pages together and invite them to share their thoughts and reactions.

By reading at a gentle pace, you'll create a cozy space where their imaginations can flourish.

Press pause

Give your kids a brother ones in a while to help the story they just heard settle in their minds.

Shorten and sweeten

Sometimes long sentences are hard for our young kids to pronounce in one go. Read them slowly, breaking them into little sections to keep your kids from feeling overwhelmed.

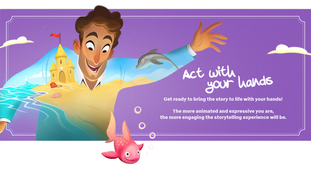
Sound it out

Turn your storytelling into a symphony!
Don't be afraid to add fun sound effects to highlight objects or moments in the story.
If a character is driving fast, you can use a whoosh sound.
Or if someone is ringing a bell, you can say ding.

Chapter 2 — Use your body

Read eye to eye

Eye contact is like a secret handshake between storyteller and listener. Don't forget to take breaks from the page and look at your kids to further invite them into the story.



Visualize movements

Characters are always moving throughout the story. Help your kids visualize what they're doing by acting it out! Put your hands on an invisible steering wheel if your character is driving or point to the sky if your character is looking at stars.

Describe your characters

Assign specific hand gestures to different characters in the story. Lift your hand if a character is tall, or flex your arm if the character is strong.

Show emotions

Let your face be a mirror for the story's emotions!
Show frustration with a playful frown or excitement with a big smile.

Chapter 3 — Use your tricks

Find a comfortable space

There's no better way to create a fun reading environment than doing just that – creating a fun reading environment! Gather your kids on the couch, or tuck them in before they sleep to help them dive into the story.

Ask questions

Immersing your kids in the story will help keep them engaged and interested in what you're reading. Pause every now and then to ask them a question and see what they think.

Here are some examples:

Props are your friends

Let's add some magic to the mix with fun props, turning the story into a hands-on journey of discovery. If you're reading a story about animals on a farm, you might use stuffed animals or toy farm animals as props.

Keep it hands-on

Let your kids handle the prop while you read. For example, if a horse is galloping, you and your child can hold the prop horse and march together to show what galloping looks like.

Find the right moment

To limit distractions and really bring the story to life, introduce your props to your kids when they're being mentioned in the story.

Now it's your turn!

Get ready to dazzle, delight and dive headfirst into the wonderful world of storytelling as you bring the story to life.

Happy Meal Readers