

HOW TO MAXIMIZE LEARNING DURING

STORY TIME

TIPS FOR PARENTS AND EDUCATORS



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About the Author



SCAN ME!

Tyonie Patterson is the author of the Tamia T. Scott Series (TTS). She was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. Tyonie is a proud alumni of Prairie View A&M University and Hampton University. Her passion is developing children's speech and language skills, especially with literacy activities. Tyonie created the TTS as a resource for parents, educators, and organizations so they can teach their children basic concepts (e.g., counting, colors, prepositions, vocabulary, etc.) and expressive language skills.

As an extension of the TTS, Tyonie has created this ebook for parents and educators to maximize their students development with books. They can learn and implement tips and strategies to make story time fun and educational. In addition, this ebook will introduce parents and educators to fun ideas and routines that can make story time interactive and exciting.



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Voice Fluctuation, Gestures, and Facial Expressions for Engagement



Using your voice, gestures, and facial expressions during story time can make it fun and help your child learn language. This may also help your child understand the story, remember words, and join in by copying you, making reading together a special and enjoyable experience!



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✓ Change Your Voice

Whispering for quiet parts or shouting for exciting moments can keep their attention.

✓ Make Facial Expressions

Show characters' emotions such as happy, sad or angry.

✓ Use Gestures

Pretending to jump or fly helps explain new words.



ADD THIS TO YOUR READING ROUTINE AND WATCH HOW EXCITED AND ENGAGED YOUR KID WILL BE!

Model Vocabulary and Sentences

Modeling vocabulary and sentences can help with language development by showing children how to use words and form sentences correctly. When you use new words or complete sentences, it gives your child examples to imitate and learn from.



How Do I Model Language During Story Time?

✓ Speak Clearly

Use simple, slow, and clear speech so your child can easily understand and mimic your words.

✓ Use Descriptive Language

Narrate the actions occurring within the story to teach them a rich vocabulary. For example: "The **grumpy man** is picking **red apples** from the tree."

✓ Expand on Their Words

If they point to the picture and say, "Dog," respond with, "Yes, it's a brown dog! Woof!" to add details.

✓ Repeat Often

Repeat words and phrases to reinforce learning.

✓ Model Correct Sentences

If they make a mistake, repeat their sentence correctly without criticism. For example, if they say, "Baby, cry!" You can say, "Yes, the baby is crying".

✓ Encourage Imitation

Prompt them to copy words or sounds you say.



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MODELING CAN EXPAND THEIR VOCABULARY, TEACH GRAMMAR NATURALLY, AND SHOW THEM HOW TO STRUCTURE THEIR THOUGHTS.

Make Connections Between Pictures and Your Child's Life.



Making connections between pictures in books and your child's life can help them understand and remember new words. It can make the story more meaningful and relatable, encouraging them to talk about their own experiences.



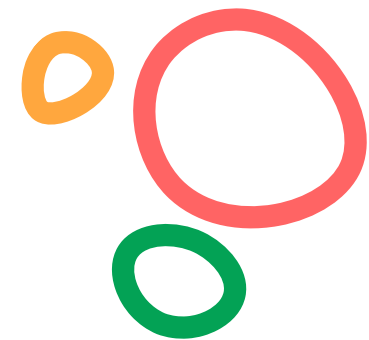
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If a book shows a playground similar to the one your child likes to play with, you can say, "This looks like the apparatus you enjoy playing on at the park!" This builds vocabulary, improves comprehension, and makes learning fun and personal. While reading, identify pictures your child can relate to such as clothing items, food, places, pets, etc.

Make a Routine

How Do I Set a Story Time Routine?

- ✓ **Set a Consistent Time**
Choose a daily time for reading, such as before bed or after breakfast.
- ✓ **Create a Cozy Space**
Designate a quiet, comfortable area with pillows, soft lighting, and books within reach.
- ✓ **Keep Books Accessible**
Place books in spots your child can easily grab, like low shelves or bins.
- ✓ **Start Small**
Begin with short sessions (5–10 minutes) and gradually increase as their attention span grows.
- ✓ **Let Your Child Choose**
Allow them to pick books they enjoy to keep them excited about reading.
- ✓ **Celebrate It**
Praise your child for participating, making reading feel rewarding and fun.



A consistent, enjoyable routine can foster a lifelong love for reading!

Create a Reading Corner



Create a cozy reading space by picking a quiet spot with good lighting.

Add a comfy chair, cushions or a rug, and keep books in a basket or low shelf where your child can easily reach them.



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Personalize the space

with their favorite stuffed animals or blankets and keep it simple to focus on reading. Let your child help set up the space to make it special and inviting!



Think-aloud

When reading with your child:

- ✓ **Discuss the cover to predict the story.**
For example, ask, “This book has a garden on the cover. I wonder what food will be inside.”
- ✓ **Pause during key moments to guess what may happen next.**
- ✓ **Use story details as clues.**
For example, say, “Gary’s dog ran away and he can’t find him. I wonder how he feels?” and “I wonder what he should do next?”.
- ✓ **Encourage your child to share their thoughts with open-ended questions.**
For example, ask, “What would you do if that happened to you?” or “How would you feel if...?”.
- ✓ **Celebrate their effort and observations, regardless of accuracy.**

**THINKING ALOUD CAN MAKE READING INTERACTIVE
AND BUILD CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS!**



Go Beyond Reading the Words



Going Beyond Reading the Words in a Story May Help Children Learn Language Faster.

- ✔ **Talk about the pictures** (e.g., *The plane is flying in the sky.*)
- ✔ **Ask questions** (e.g., *Where is he?*)
- ✔ **Make connections from the story to their life to build their vocabulary and understanding** (e.g., She is learning how to swim in the pool just like you!)
- ✔ **It can teach them how to share ideas and boost their social skills.** For example, discussing a **character's feelings or actions** can help kids learn social language and how to use them in context. This can make reading fun and a great way to grow their language skills!

Ask Simple or Complex Questions

Asking simple or complex questions during story time can help your child think, learn, and grow their language skills.

Simple Questions to Ask:

- ✓ **Point Out Picture Items:** "What color is the hat?" or "Where is the sun?"
- ✓ **Ask About Actions:** "What is the dog doing?"
- ✓ **Ask about the Characters:** "Who is this?" or "Where is she?"
- ✓ **Yes/No Questions:** "Is the boy scared?"



Complex Questions to Ask:

- ✓ **Predict What Happens Next:** "What do you think will happen to the boy?"
- ✓ **Explore Why:** "Why do you think the girl is scared?"
- ✓ **Relate to Their Experiences:** "Have you ever felt like that?" "What happened?"
- ✓ **Ask About Feelings:** "How do you think the boy feels?" "Why might he feel that way?"
- ✓ **Encourage Problem-Solving:** "What would you do if you were the boy?"

ASKING SIMPLE AND COMPLEX QUESTIONS MAY BUILD VOCABULARY AND CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS.

IMPORTANT: If your child is unsure of the answer or has limited language. Tell them the answer (also called modeling) so they can hear and learn the language first. This may reduce avoidance and frustration. Modeling is important!

Diversify Their Library



A diverse library can expose kids to:

- ✓ **Different Cultures**
- ✓ **Experiences**
- ✓ **Perspectives**



This can help them build empathy, confidence, and understanding.

It can teach kids to appreciate differences, see themselves in stories, and value all voices, resulting in kindness and curiosity.

MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD'S LIBRARY IS DIVERSE!

Encourage Turn-taking Conversations



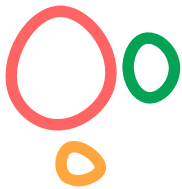
Encouraging turn-taking conversations during reading can help kids stay engaged and practice communication skills.

- ✓ **Ask Questions:** "What might happen next?"
- ✓ **Share Predictions:** Take turns guessing what might happen next in the story.
- ✓ **Let Them "Read" Too:** If they can't read yet, encourage them to talk about the pictures or repeat your words and sentences from the story.
- ✓ **Praise Their Effort:** Celebrate when they take their turn, saying things like, "Great idea!" or "I love how you said that!"
- ✓ **Be Patient:** Allow them time to think and respond without rushing them.

This can help children learn to express ideas, actively listen, and participate in conversations, making story time more interactive and beneficial for their language and social development.

Turn-taking can make story time interactive and can help children practice communication and social skills!

Do Activities Related to the Storybook



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Ideas for doing activities related to children's books:

- ✔ **Arts and Crafts:** Create characters, scenes, or objects from the story using paper, crayons, clay, etc.
- ✔ **Act It Out:** Pretend to be characters and act out scenes with costumes and/or props.
- ✔ **Cooking:** Make a snack or recipe inspired by the story.
- ✔ **Story Retelling:** Use puppets, toys, or drawings to retell the story together.
- ✔ **Nature Walks:** Explore outdoors if the book involves nature or animals. For example, searching for bugs after a story about insects.
- ✔ **Games:** Play themed games, such as a scavenger hunt, to find items mentioned in the book.
- ✔ **Create a Sequel:** Ask your child, "What do you think will happen after the story?" Write and/or draw it out.
- ✔ **Library or Bookstore Visits:** Find similar books to keep the excitement alive.

THESE ACTIVITIES CAN DEEPEN YOUR CHILD'S CONNECTION TO THE STORY, BOOST CREATIVITY, AND MAKE READING EVEN MORE FUN!



EARLY

Literacy Checklist

0-12 Months

- Turns head toward sounds and voices
- Makes cooing and babbling sounds (e.g., "ba-ba," "da-da")
- Recognizes familiar voices and responds to their name
- Shows interest in books by looking, patting, or grabbing
- Enjoys listening to songs, rhymes, and stories

12-24 Months

- Says simple words (e.g., "ball" and "eat")
- Points to objects and pictures when named
- Enjoys interactive books (lift-the-flap, touch-and-feel)
- Starts to repeat words and imitate animal sounds
- Begins scribbling with crayons

24-36 Months

- Uses short phrases and simple sentences (e.g., "Want cookie.")
- Recognizes and names familiar objects in books
- Asks and answers simple questions about stories
- Begins to recognize some letters, especially in their name

3-4 Years

- Speaks in longer, more complex sentences
- Recognizes and names some letters and numbers
- Pretends to read familiar books from memory
- Starts making letter-like scribbles and attempts to write their name
- Enjoys listening to longer stories and answering simple comprehension questions

EARLY

Literacy Checklist

4-5 Years

- Recognizes most uppercase letters and some lowercase letters
- Identifies the beginning sounds of words
- Can retell parts of a familiar story in order
- Attempts to write letters and their name
- Begins to understand that words are made up of sounds (phonemic awareness)

5-6 Years

- Knows most or all letters and their sounds
- Starts blending sounds to read simple words (e.g., "cat," "dog")
- Writes their name and some familiar words
- Can retell stories with beginning, middle, and end
- Recognizes common sight words (e.g., "the," "and," "is")
- Begins to understand punctuation (e.g., period, question mark)

6-7 Years

- Reads simple books independently
- Uses phonics to sound out new words
- Writes simple sentences with correct spacing and some punctuation
- Spells some common words correctly
- Starts understanding and using grammar rules in speech and writing
- Shows comprehension by predicting story events and discussing main ideas



Recommended Storybooks, Activity Books, and Storyboards



English & Spanish Storybooks

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Categorizing Fruits and Vegetables
 Instructions: Color and glue the pictures into the boxes.

Fruits	Vegetables

Color Key:

Apple	Carrot	Strawberry	Onion
Grape	Lemon	Banana	Cucumber

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NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Matching
 Instructions: Draw a line to the correct picture.

Strawberry	
Apple	
Tomato	
Carrot	
Pepper	
Onion	
Potato	
Lemon	
Grape	
Cherry	

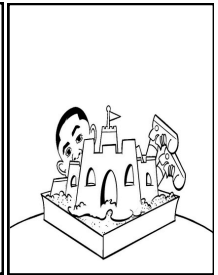
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NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Color, Cut, and Glue
 Instructions: Color, cut, and glue each picture into Meikau and Tamiya's box.
 *Optional: Glue the pictures into the grid to make a picture of the garden.

Color Key:

Sandcastle	Pool	Tide	Beach ball
Bath	Beach	Shade	Jungle Gym



Activity & Coloring Sheets



Velcro Storyboards



Tamiya's Board Game



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www.tamiatcottseries.com

Visual Prompt



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Instructions: Use this visual chart to teach and prompt your child to use descriptive words and complete sentences. For example, “The bear is a toy”.

Categories

Food Item 	Animal 	Insect 	Tool 
Sport 	Furniture 	Transportation 	Person 
Place 	Body Part 	Toy 	School Supply 
Season 	Color 	Clothing Item 	Other:


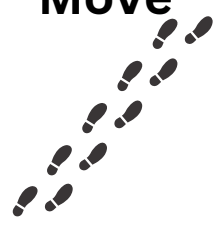







The _____ is a _____.

Visual Prompt



Instructions: Use this visual chart to teach and prompt your child to use descriptive words and complete sentences. For example, "The dolphin can swim".

Action

Eat 	Move 	Open/Close 
Swim 	Sleep 	Grow 
Fly 	Make Noise 	Be thrown 

The _____ can _____.

Visual Prompt



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Instructions: Use this visual chart to teach and prompt your child to use descriptive words and complete sentences. For example, "The cat is furry".

Features

Big 	Small 	Furry 
Smooth 	Hard 	Bumpy 
Shape 	Color 	Wet 

The _____ is _____.




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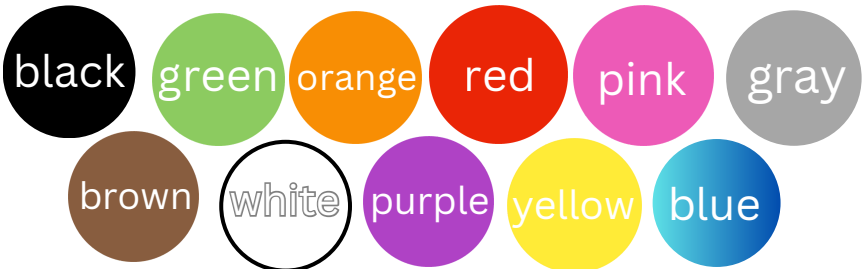
Sentence Frames

Instructions: Use these sentence starters to teach and prompt your child to use complete sentences. It's great to use it during story time or activities to make comments and requests. For example, "I see green apples".

I 	see 	_____
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------

I 	want 	_____
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------



I 	like 	_____
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------







Sentence Frames



Instructions: Use these sentence starters to teach and prompt your child to use complete sentences. It's great to use it during story time or activities to make comments and requests. For example, "I want the purple crayon".

I 	see 	the	_____
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----	-------

I 	want 	the	_____
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----	-------

I 	like 	the	_____
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----	-------

