

Read, sing, talk, write, and play when engaging with your young child. Use the books and toys in this kit, along with the activities below, to support the development of early literacy skills and instill a love of reading.

Read

Make the story come alive! Don't be afraid to use voices and have fun with reading.

Take time to look at and talk about the pictures.

Before you read one of the books, choose a wand to use with it. Show it to your child and talk about what the question means. Throughout the book, or once finished reading, talk about the question together with your child, giving your thoughts and letting them share theirs.

When reading together with a family/group, distribute a different wand to each person. After reading, have each child/adult answer the question on their wand. Then pass them around.

Sing

Take one of your child's favorite books and make up a song about the characters and story. It helps to use a tune you are already familiar with!

These Are My Glasses

By Laurie Berkner

These are my glasses (*thumbs and index fingers form circles; raise them to eyes*)

This is my book (*put palms together*)

I put on my glasses (*thumbs and index fingers form circles; raise them to eyes*)

And I open up the book.

(*put palms together, then slowly open*)

Now I read, read, read, (*palms open*)

And I look, look, look,

(*thumbs and index fingers form circles; raise them to eyes*),

I put down my glasses and (*thumbs and index fingers form circles; remove them from eyes*)

Whoop! Close up the book! (*clap hands together*)

Check out The Laurie Berkner Band's YouTube channel for a video of the song with hand movements!



Storytime Kit: Storytelling

Talk

Encourage your child to be a good listener and pay attention to when others are speaking by taking turns with one of the wands. Whoever is holding the wand gets to speak. Pass the wand (or multiple wands) back and forth to take turns speaking and listening.

Roll three of the Story Cubes and use them to create a character. Now make up a story with your child featuring your character (using the Story Cubes or just your imagination).

Tell a story together with your family. Each person takes a turn rolling a cube and adding something to the story with that element.

Write

After reading or telling a story, ask your child to respond to one of the story wands by writing or dictating a sentence and illustrating it.

The book *What If . . .* is about a child who uses imaginative ways to create. Brainstorm some unusual ways you and your child could create a story, building, or piece of art, and then try one of them out!

Make a small booklet for your child by stapling together some white paper. Let them make their own book by writing and illustrating a story they make up. Kids too young to write can dictate their story to an adult and then add their own pictures.

Play

Play Story Cubes together with your child/family. Take turns being the storytellers and rolling the nine cubes. Begin with "Once upon a time," and tell a story that links together all the face-up images. Start with the first image that grabs your attention. Use three cubes for the beginning, three for the middle, and three for the end of the story. Younger children who may not be able to tell their own story can contribute to an adult's story by using one or two cubes.

Play 1, 2, 3, Scribble! Give your child a piece of paper and coloring supplies. Start the game by saying, "1, 2, 3, scribble!" Give them a few seconds to scribble all over their paper until you stop them. Then they have to turn their scribble into a story by drawing in characters, setting, etc. What kind of imaginary creatures, places, faces, or scenes can be found within their scribble? When they finish, ask them to tell you a story about what they have created.

This tip sheet stays with the kit. For a copy of your own, visit dtdl.org/littlethings. For more books, songs, rhymes, and activity ideas to share with your child, visit dtdl.org/storytimes.