

# Making the Most of Storytime

“It is the talk that surrounds the story book reading that gives it power.”

— National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) & International Reading Association

**Reading aloud to young children is important, and HOW you share books can make a big difference. Research shows that following these read-aloud practices significantly improves the language skills of children who participate:**

## 1. Have a conversation about a book

- Frequent conversations—back and forth exchanges
- Ask questions that require more than one word answers
- Wait long enough for responses
- Be responsive to what the child says

## 2. Model advanced language

- Repeat what your child says and add more to it:
  1. *Provide new information*
  2. *Recast what they say with more advanced vocabulary*
  3. *Repeat what they say with correct grammar/word use, or a longer sentence*

## 3. Prompt critical thinking skills

- Ask how and why questions
- Ask children to explain their answers
- Give clues to get them to the right answer if possible

## 4. Intentionally build vocabulary

- Reread the same book often
- Stop and explain the meaning of one or two words
- Define words using words they already know
- Ask children to repeat the words to improve their memory of the sounds in the word

## 5. Teach and provide practice of social and emotional skills

- Everyone has something valuable to say and listen to (self-regulation)
- Listen to peers with eyes and ears (self-awareness)
- Building community (relationship skills)  
“So you and Jamari both take a bus to the grocery with their mommies.”

**preschool  
PROMISE**

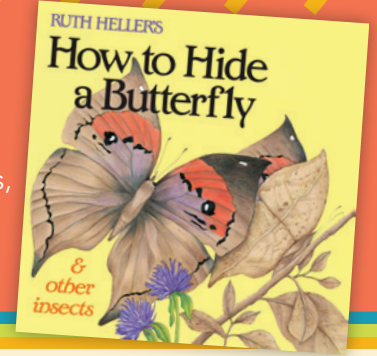


DAYTON  
METRO  
LIBRARY



## How to Hide a Butterfly & Other Insects by Ruth Heller

**Vocabulary possibilities:** insect, butterfly, moth, praying mantis, grasshopper, inchworm, bee, fly, camouflage, disappear, protection, predator, prey, environment



### Pg. 1-2

What do you see here?

How are the butterfly's wings different from topside to bottom-side?

Tell about a time when you saw a butterfly? How did its wings look?

### Pg. 3-4

Why do you think it might be a good idea for a butterfly to disappear?

Did you ever play a game and disappear? Where is a good hiding place in your home?

### Pg. 5-6

How is a moth the same as a butterfly?

How is it different?

Did you ever see a moth? Tell about it.

### Pg. 7-8

If you could change your color, what color would you choose to camouflage yourself in the grass?

What would happen if this moth tried to hide in green grass?

### Pg. 9-10

An inchworm is a type of caterpillar which turns into a moth. Can you think of any other creature that changes form as it grows (metamorphoses)?

### Pg. 11-12

What animal do you think might like to eat an inchworm?

Did you ever see an animal eat a bug or worm? Tell about it.

### Pg. 13-14

Why do you think people call this insect a praying mantis? If you could change it's name, what might you call it?

Can you think of a time when you heard an insect make a sound? Tell about it.

### Pg. 17-18

How many insects can you think of that have wings?

Can you think of an animal that jumps to escape predators like the grasshopper does?

### Pg. 20-22

What is it about this insect that makes it look like a bee?

Why do you think looking like a bee would help a fly escape it's enemies?

### Pg. 23-24

Did you ever get stung by a bee? How did it happen? How did you take care of the sting site?

### Pg. 25-26

What do spiders like to eat?

What likes to eat spiders?

### Pg. 29

If you could be a creature in this book, which one would you choose? Tell why you'd like that one.