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 do you think the children got up in the air?

Did you ever see someone play a drum? Tell about it.
Did you ever play a rhythm on a drum? What did the drum look like? Did you use your hand or something else?

Where is the dance music coming from?

This looks like a parade. Tell what you see? Did you ever see a parade? What did you see in it?

If you could be one of these characters, which would you choose? Why?