

AT-HOME ACTIVITIES TO TEACH STORY-TELLING

As mentioned in other newsletters, being able to tell a story or retell something that has been done is an important skill for children, as this skill is a prerequisite to writing stories. This skill can be difficult for some children.

Ideas to help a child learn to tell stories and retell events include:-

- When a child has made something, talk about the things required to make the object, talk about what they did first, what they did next etc until all the steps are completed. Then get the child to tell you how they feel about the object they have made.
- When children have sleepovers or go for an outing, get them to tell you (or a relative) things such as who was there, where they went, when they went, what they did there.
 - Breaking the information down into these questions is less daunting for some children than just asking what they did as a general question.
 - This activity can also be made easier by asking the child to tell you one thing they did that day. Even children who have difficulty with the concept of story telling, will be able to think of one event.

These activities don't just have to be special events, they can be used on a daily basis.

- For example when you are setting the table at night, talk about what things you need, what you put down first, then next and then last.
 - Eg we need tablecloth, placemats, napkins, glasses, knives, forks and spoons, salt and pepper and plates.
 - We first put the tablecloth down on the table, then the placemats, then the forks, knives and spoons, then the glasses, napkins, salt and pepper and plates.
 - We then get the food, put it on the plate and eat it and it tastes delicious. This is a clear sequential story.

This activity can be also be done for other every day events such as getting ready for bed, having a bath or getting dressed in the morning.