



Choosing Materials for Retelling Stories¹

Retelling stories is a powerful way for children to build comprehension skills, language structure, and a sense of story. For retellings, select books with easy-to-follow story lines. In addition, look for books with the following:

- ⇒ Repeating phrases—e.g., *Mrs. Wishy Washy* (Cowley, 1999).
- ⇒ Familiar sequences—e.g., *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* (Carle, 1970).
- ⇒ Conversation—e.g., *Who Sank the Boat?* (Allen, 1999).
- ⇒ Classic or familiar titles—e.g., *Caps for Sale* (Slobodkina, 1974).

Include materials that encourage children to tell their own stories and act out stories they have heard. Props such as these can add to the storytelling experience:

- ✂ Flannel board.
- ✂ Velcro board.
- ✂ Magnetic board.
- ✂ Storytelling apron.
- ✂ Props from the dramatic play area.
- ✂ Puppets made from cloth, popsicle sticks, paper bags, or wooden spoons.
- ✂ Story clothesline: Children use clothespins to hang pictures from a story in the correct sequence on a clothesline.

¹ Based on Dodge, D.T., Colker, L.J., & Heroman, C. *The Creative Curriculum for Preschool*. 4th edition. Washington, DC: Teaching Strategies, 2002.

