Choosing Materials for Retelling Stories

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.

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