

Basic Storytime Development

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Where to begin?

The questions

“Will you share your favorite craft?”

“I’m doing a leaves storytime, what books should I use?”

“Does anyone have any good Valentine’s Day fingerplays?”

Storytime objectives

What do you want accomplish with your storytime?

What does your administration expect from storytime?



Sarah's basic storytime structure

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Opening Song

Itsy Bitsy Spider

Book #1 (Longest book)

Book #2

Rhyme or Fingerplay with movement

Song with movement or props (scarves, egg shakers, tambourines)

Book #3 (shortest book)

Open Shut Them

Closing Song

Craft

--Visit other library storytimes to see how their presenters do their storytimes.

Theme or No Theme

Advantages to both!

Easy to find books, songs, rhymes, and flannel stories about frogs.

What if your theme isn't quite so
Simple or straightforward?



Finding books

Start with your library's catalog! It will provide the most accessible book choices.

But what if there aren't enough titles that you like for storytime? Well, let's continue the search on the internet.

“Frog storytime” will bring up a myriad of suggested titles, songs, and extensions.

Fabulous resources for storytime book ideas

[Storytime Katie](#)

[Library](#)

[Sunflower Storytime](#)

What to look for in a book?

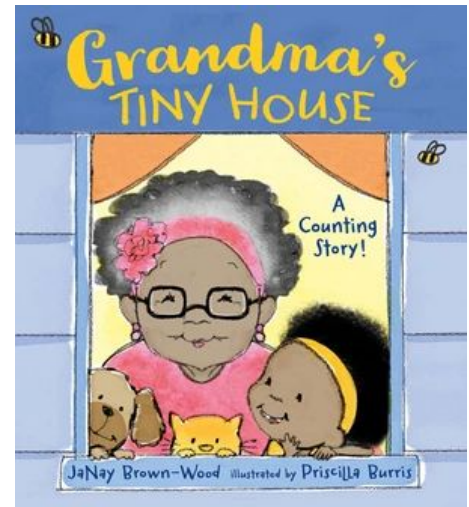
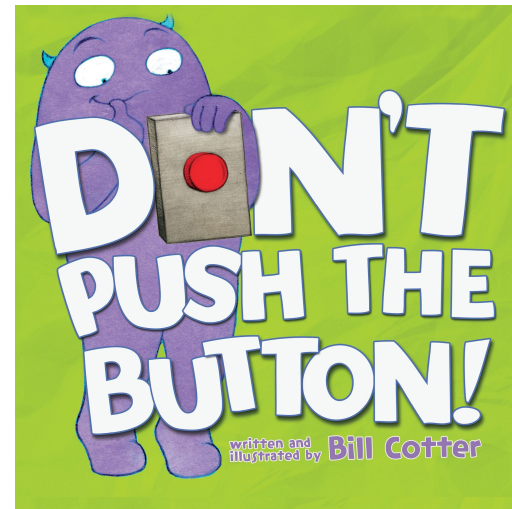
A book YOU love to read out loud!

Big pictures!

Make it fun and interactive!

Characters that reflect your audience!

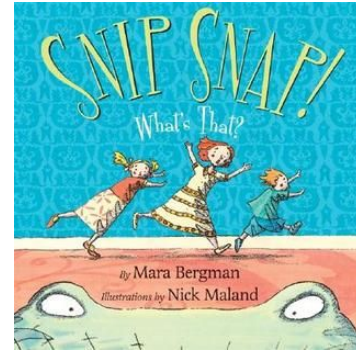
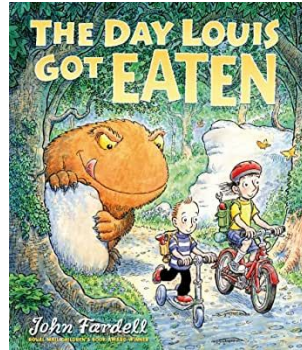
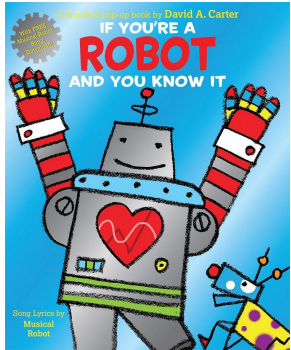
Age appropriate



How to read a book

I highly recommend this post from JBrary's blog: [How to Read Books to a Group.](#)

Practice, practice, practice!



What if a book doesn't work?

It is perfectly fine to stop reading a book midway through the story.

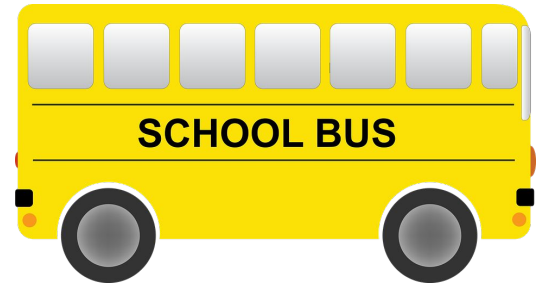
It is perfectly fine to shorten a book before you present it.

Parents will appreciate and learn that it is fine if not every book is a winner.

Songs and rhymes

Singing versus recorded music?

How many songs to incorporate?



Song resources

My two absolute favorite sites:

[Jbrary's Youtube channel](#)

[King County Library System's Tell Me A Story](#)

Get those kids up and moving!

Extension activities:

Songs with actions

Scarves

Egg Shakers

Music instruments

Flannel stories

Parachutes

Puppets



Crowd control...

Adults texting and chatting?

--Don't be afraid to speak up and mention how important it is to for kids to see these activities mirrored by their adults.

--Hand out props to adults too.

--If necessary, go over storytime "rules" at the beginning of every session.

Magnetic write & wipe surface on one side.

Early Literacy Messages:

How to incorporate them into storytime?

--Talking, playing, reading, singing,
writing

Where do I find ideas?

--[Every Child Ready to Read 2](#)

--[Colorado Libraries for Early Literacy](#)

--Early literacy calendars (PLA has one you can purchase)



The end...

Crafts (process art versus product art)

Play stations

Story apps

Display books for easy checkout

Handouts of songs and ideas to
continue storytime at home.



“Ultimately, each programmer will bring his or her own unique style to...storytime. What works for a bubbly performer type won't work for someone who prefers a quieter, more soothing storytime style. And that's a good thing! Select materials that get you excited about sharing literacy...”

Thanks!

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