WHY?

After you finish reading a book with your child, ask them to tell you what happened in the story in their own words. Retelling a story encourages the development of literacy skills by:

- Promoting children’s comprehension, or understanding of what happened in the story.
- Teaching story elements such as characters, setting, problem, and solution.
- Supporting oral language development.
- Promoting the development of sequencing skills. This helps your child recognize patterns and put things in logical order.

WHAT?

Retelling a story is a strategy that tells you how well your child comprehends a story. Ask your child to simply restate the story in their own words. Allow time for them to think and freely ask questions that can guide them along.

HOW?

There are many ways you can support your child in retelling a story:

- Go back through the book and have your child retell the story by talking about what is happening in the illustrations.
- Use puppets to retell the story. For example, a girl puppet and three bear puppets could be used to retell *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. You and your child could each choose a character and retell the story together.
- Use props to help retell the story. For example, pretend food items could be used to retell *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.

Here are some questions you can ask to support your child in retelling:

- What was this book about?
- What happened in this book?
- What happened after that?
- Why did the character do that?
- What was the problem in this story?
- How did the problem get solved?
- How did the book end?