

# Tip Sheet: Ask Your Child to Retell the Story

## FOR PRESCHOOL PARENTS

For additional support on this topic, visit <https://bit.ly/QTRetell> to view a short video.

### 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?