

Tip Sheet: Ask Your Child to Retell the Story

FOR PRESCHOOL TEACHERS

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

WHY?

Asking children to **retell** a story after hearing it read aloud offers many benefits:

- It encourages children to reflect on the most important parts of the story as they consider what to retell.
- It causes children to think about the elements of a story, such as characters, setting, problem, and solution.
- Having them retell the story aloud supports their oral language development.
- It helps you to assess what they remember and understand about the story.



TEACHER TIP

Once children are familiar with retelling stories with puppets and props, use them, along with a copied version of the book, for center-time activities.

WHAT?

When children retell a story, they say in their own words, and in sequence, what they heard in the story. The goal is not for them to repeat exactly what they heard, but rather give a summary of the key points in the story.

HOW?

There are many ways children can retell a story and many ways you can support them:

- Using puppets – Provide children with puppets or stuffed animals to help them retell the story, such as a girl and three bear puppets for *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*
- Using props – Provide props to help children retell the story. For example, for a retelling of *There was an Old Lady who Swallowed a Fly*, provide pictures or small toys of the different things the lady swallowed.
- Sequencing prompts – Use cards with numbers (1, 2, 3, ...) and cards with pictures to represent parts of the story. Ask children to place the pictures next to the card with the number that shows when that event happened in the story to support children in retelling the story in sequence.