



Story Circle: Read & Retell*

In the days before television and radio, families often sat together in the evening and *retold stories* from books they had read or from adventures they had. Retelling stories develops one's memory and the ability to speak in groups. It can build feelings of self-confidence. This activity encourages kids to pay attention to details and to the *order of events* in a story. It provides them a chance to show off their *dramatic* skills. And it's fun to do this!

Here is one way to do it:

- 1) This activity works best when you pick a book that your child *really enjoys*. First, tell the child that he or she will have the opportunity to retell the story in his or her own personal style. Then read the book aloud together.
- 2) Let the child *retell* the story to you soon after reading it. If you want to then re-read the story to remind yourselves of the details, that's fine.
- 3) At some event — perhaps a family meal or a gathering of friends — invite (but don't force) the child to retell the story. OR let him or her act out the story. Allow the child's *inventive mind* to add new details, even if they are different from the original book. Applaud their efforts!
- 4) You may wish to make Story Circle a family *tradition* and do it now and then. Adults can join in this, too. It can be done anywhere, for instance, on a long car ride or on a long walk.
- 5) Start a list of stories that your family members like to tell and put the list in the **Our Treasures** section of your **WAY TO GO!** FAMILY LEARNING JOURNAL™.



“The thing I liked most about my own grandma is that she told stories. These were often her own retelling of favorite books or adventures from her childhood. She had a *magical* way of bringing the story alive with her voice and expression.”

— Grandma Anna

**Story Circle: Read & Retell* supports the English-Language Arts Content Standards related to reading comprehension, delivering oral communication, and narrative writing.

Next month, go to www.familylearningjournal.com for a new Family Activity!

