

story remember to include songs, finger games, and stretch activities along with your story so that your story time is well balanced and fun time.

Never announce, “Today’s story will be.....”. As soon as children know what story you are telling, they will comment, “oh , I know that one, who want to hear it again or something similar.

Strategies for Effective Story-telling

Effective strategies for story telling can be described in a few simple but effective ways. The strategies are designed to make your story time fun and effective.

- i. *Choose your story book properly.* There should be a matching between the book and the child. The story book should be interesting, with beautiful colored illustrations. Avoid long stories for very young children since they have a lesser attention span.
- i. *Take time to read the story and know its content.* Ensure that the story book does not put certain people to lower class; regardless of color, race, physical features and disability. Make sure that the story does not offend certain religion, practices, or belief. If you are not in agreement with the book, you might as well disregard it rather than read it rather than read it to children.
- ii. *Read the book ahead of time.* When you have read the book ahead of time you can better focus on telling the story rather than reading it and trying to understand the whole thing. If you read ahead of time you can have a better concept on how to do the whole story in a much effective, fluent and dramatic way. Expressions are better defined if you know the story well ahead of time.
- iii. *Use expressions in telling your story.* You can use a sad face when you are in the saddest portion of the story, a big smile or a happy face during times of hope, thrilling face during the climax and an expression of excitement and relief during its end. The expressions are crucial because it makes your hearer feel the story; without it the story can be boring.
- iv. *Use different voices for different characters.* Like a small voice for a tiny mouse. Or a big voice for a giant. This gives life to the characters. The more you practice this the more skilled you become in making different voices for a number of characters.
- v. *If you are telling the story during the day, it is best that the children could see the pictures when you tell the story.* Children are more visual especially during the day. They appreciate the character if they could see it.
- vi. *During the night time or bedtime stories, do not use so much expressions or allowing children to see the pictures.* The main aim of bed time stories is to make children sleep or go to bed.