

"DOs" for Interactive Book Sharing

1. **Prop Selection.** Select a variety of props/toys to help bring the story to life. Include props directly from the story, objects that can be used in conjunction (cup/spoon, cup/doll), and some that have multiple functions and enable limitless representations (empty box or container, towel, blocks, etc).
2. **Gestures.** During the reading, emphasize gestures. Model gestures for adjectives (e.g., big), verbs (e.g., peel), and feelings (e.g., scared). Encourage your child to imitate gestures. Model labels for gestures as you perform them. Encourage your child to pair gesture + speech.
3. **Vocabulary Selection.** Carefully select vocabulary targets. Choose words that relate to existing vocabulary and can be used in a range of settings. Build semantic networks to enhance meaning acquisition.
4. **Story Text.** Feel free to add your own words and phrases/sentences as you read/tell/retell the story.
5. **Story Reading.** No need to get through the whole story in every time. Enjoy lingering on one page or event to maximize your child's engagement and processing.
6. **Re-enact Scenes as They Occur in the Story.** Allow your child to deviate from the story as presented in the book to develop creativity, imagination, cognition and social development.
7. **Use of Mascots as Characters.** Build pragmatic, verbal formulation, and language comprehension by having the mascots talk to each other. You/your child can speak directly to mascots while bringing the story to life.
8. **Fun with the Unexpected.** "Go with" unexpected children responses! Rather than label as "wrong" or "not in the story", use your child's unexpected response creatively to motivate your child to use language to discuss events and emotions.
9. **Expand Play/Language Routine.** Once your child shows familiarity with the story routine, expand in creative ways. This may include interjecting silly or unexpected actions or emotions from characters. Probe to develop your child's creative thinking and problem-solving skills.
10. **Keep it Fun!** Ask meaningful questions embedded naturally in the play without creating a barrage of questions that feel like a drill or create a communicative imbalance.

Adapted from: Rebecca Landa, Lisa Hill, Mary Lee Walls

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