

Listening Cords

Primary Objectives

18c. Retells stories and recounts details from informational texts

Why It's Important

Children enjoy hearing a favorite story over and over again. Encouraging your child to listen for and provide specific language in the story develops his comprehension and attention skills.

Materials

Cord or nylon rope (3–4 feet in length)

What You Do

1. Choose a familiar story with repetitive language. Briefly review or encourage your child to recall characters, the sequence of events, or any repeated words and phrases from the story.
2. Show your child the listening cord, and explain that you will use it to retell a story together. Give him one end of the cord while you hold the other.
3. Explain that you will retell the story, pausing along the way. When you pause, he will feel you tug on his cord. This will be his cue to provide the missing word or phrase.
4. Prepare your child to listen purposefully, making sure he can see and hear you as you speak. Maintain eye contact with your child as you retell the story. Then the wolf said, *"Then I'll huff, and I'll puff, and I'll _____!"*
5. Prompt or model language when necessary.
6. Encourage your child to use the cords at a later time to retell a story with a friend or family member.