

The Duck Said...

Who's that tripping over...



Read a familiar book to your child and pause in the middle of a repeated line.

Your child will practice using words by filling in the blanks of the familiar story.

...my bridge!





Why this is important

When you read stories to children they hear many new words used in different ways. Your child will increase her understanding, memory, and use of words as she listens to a story. She may also begin to notice printed words on a page. Her experiences of listening and helping to tell a story will help her learn to love reading. Completing, or filling in, a familiar sentence is an easy way for her to practice her memory skills and use her growing vocabulary.

What you do

- Choose a familiar story, such as *The Little Red Hen*, which has repeated words and sounds.
- Invite your child to say the repetitive lines in the story as you read. For example, when the Hen asks who will plant the wheat, you can read, *The Duck said...* Then let her fill in the words, *Not !!*
- Point to the words as she says them. Later, encourage her to point to the words.
- Challenge her by leaving out a word that shows the sequence of the story. For example, read *Who will help me...this wheat?* She will need to choose from several words (*plant, water, cut, or eat*) by remembering what has already happened and what comes next.

Another idea

You can keep your child interested in this activity by choosing funny stories with repeated noises and sounds. Stories about animals, machines that act like people, or families and familiar situations provide fun opportunities for your child to contribute to telling the story.

Let's read together!

The Little Red Hen
by Byron Barton