

## 5 Tips for sharing family stories

1. **Bring your child into the story**

Choose stories about interesting things that happened to you or to members of your family, including your child. Include your child in the storytelling by making links to him/her. For example, “You know how you like to ride your bike? Well this story is about a time when I was your age and I rode my bike to get bread for dinner...”

2. **What kind of story to tell**

Stories do not have to have a clear beginning, middle and end with a problem and solution. They could simply describe an event that happened. Try to keep the stories brief and simple, especially for younger ones. Children’s attention spans become longer as they get older.

3. **Bring in all five senses**

Use words that will relate to your child’s five senses – sight, hearing, touch, smell and taste. These words help to bring the story to life and make it more real for your child. Use physical gestures like hand movements to show action, and facial expressions to show emotion.

4. **Introduce new words**

Including one or two new words will add detail to the story and help expand your child’s vocabulary. These could be words that relate to the story that help to paint a better picture in your child’s mind, e.g. invitation, guests, celebration, etc.

5. **Tell stories anytime**

Share family stories throughout the day –it doesn’t have to happen only at bedtime. You could tell stories at meal time, on walks through the community, while riding on a bus or subway, while driving in a car or waiting for appointments.