

# Storytelling & Child Development



Storytelling forms a crucial part in a child's overall development. It is an age-old tradition followed by parents and grandparents since time immemorial. Storytelling encourages creativity through imagining & role playing the characters, places, plot etc. It improves their communication and confidence, listening and concentration skills and sharpening their memory, besides developing roots to their culture and imbibing ethics and values.

# Key Benefits

1. **Instils Virtues & Values:** Children all over the world love listening to stories. They want to know more about their favourite characters and often try to emulate them. By telling a child stories that come with a meaningful message, we can inculcate qualities like wisdom, courage, honesty, etc. from an early age.

2. **Roots children to their language & culture:** Telling children stories from one's childhood and about various activities and celebrations from local past will make them more familiar about the different customs, traditions and festivals prevalent. Sharing stories about various elders in the community, region, state & country will help them learn about their lineage better.

3. **Enhances Verbal Proficiency:** Reading out stories to children helps in making them acquainted with the language as well as in learning new words and phrases. This is also a great way to teach a child new words and pronunciation on a regular basis.

4. **Improves Listening Skills:** Most children usually have a lesser attention span and find it difficult to concentrate on something thing for long. Also, they end up talking more, rather than listening. Storytelling for children helps them be not only more attentive, but also keen to listen and understand.

5. **Encourages creativity and imagination:** Listening to a story helps a child imagine the characters, places, plot etc. instead of seeing it on a visual medium. This also enhances creativity, making them more imaginative and open to ideas and free thinking.

6. **Sharpens Memory and concentration:** By using certain ideas, one can use storytelling to help increase a child's memory. Once one has read out the story, one can ask him/her to repeat the same after a few days. Alternatively, one can ask to describe the story up till the present. This is a fun way to increase the memory and encourage concentration.

7. **Broadens Horizon:** Young children may not always be exposed to the different cultures and countries of the world. Through the medium of storytelling, one can make them familiar about the various places and cultures and a broader understanding of the world.

8. **Makes Academic Learning Easier:** Storytelling for children is a stepping stone for academic learning. Many children have the habit of learning by rote, without understanding the subject. Storytelling, as a regular activity, can help children to enjoy and better understand what they are reading or listening. This helps them in learning their subjects better. Sometimes, teaching school subjects as an interesting story can help them understand better and fuel curiosity.

9. **Enhances Communication and Confidence:** Sometimes, children are hesitant to ask a question, even though their mind is filled with curiosity. Storytelling helps children in learning the art of asking the right question. It also tells them how to strike a perfect conversation and makes them more confident. Regular reading and listening can make them better orators too.

10. **Prepares to face Difficult Situations with Ease:** Difficult situations can often end up leaving children feeling confused. Stories about various characters facing difficult situations can help them understand this concept better. Telling stories that teach children that pain and suffering are a part of life as much as happiness and fun times are. The right stories can help children become well-equipped to face life situations

**Source:** [Compilation of information available in public domain](#)