

Budding Author

Primary Objectives

9b. Speaks clearly

18c. Retells stories and recounts details from informational texts

Why It's Important

Using mostly-wordless books can teach your child how to create a story inspired by the book's illustrations alone. Eventually, he will be telling his own tales of what is happening in the picture book—tales that might be quite different from the author's original ideas. For many children, this is what makes reading fun and deeply satisfying.

Materials

Markers; pens, pencils, or other writing tools; tape, picture books; notepad

What You Do

1. Show your child the wordless books you have gathered. Invite him to choose one that he would like to read to you. Ask him to tell you about the book he chose. *Why did you choose this book? What do you like about it?*
2. Explain to your child that this book needs some words. Invite him to tell you the story by reading the pictures. Tell him that you are going to write down his words and then attach them to each page after he has finished reading the book to you.
3. As he tells you the story, write down the words he uses on sticky notes. Listen carefully to your child's version of what is happening in the pictures on each page. Ask questions. *What is the gorilla doing? How did Carl get into the shopping center?*
4. When your child is finished telling you the story, place the written descriptions on the correct pages. Later, you can read his version to his friends and family members.