Parents as Teachers.

ACTIVITY *page*

Story Stones: Creating and Telling Stories

What do we have?

- At least 10 rocks (or pieces of cardboard or small lids)
- Magazines with small pictures of people, animals or objects
- Safety scissors
- Glue
- Paper
- Markers or crayons
- Children's book

Book sharing

*When reading together, draw your child's attention to the main character, plot and setting. Prompt your child to have a conversation about what you have read. Evaluate her response so that you can build on it in a way that gives her more detail. "Yes, he shared the toy **and then** his friend shared her snack."*

How do we do it?

1. Explain that you will decorate the stones (or cardboard or lids) and use them to write and tell stories.
2. Let your child cut out pictures she likes, helping her as needed. These pictures will be the characters in the story. Have her glue one to each stone.
3. Encourage your child to make up a story using the stones. Prompt her thinking if needed. "Who is the main character?" "Where could he go?" "What is he doing?" Help her work the other stones into the plot.
4. Write the story down exactly as your child tells it. Older children may be able to write it on their own.

Safety tip

Always supervise your child when she uses scissors.

What's in it for us?

Language

a. Children use wh- questions (who, what, where, when, why) when they make up stories.

b. Talking about the elements of a story – characters, setting and plot – helps children build awareness of the parts of a book.

c. Children gain new understanding when they listen to others' ideas, take in new information and organize it into their own thinking.

Connecting across development

- **Cognitive:** When children tell stories, they construct knowledge about their experiences in the world around them. They can use that knowledge to solve problems in the future.
- **Social-emotional:** Telling stories with props (like the stones) helps children express feelings they might otherwise not be able to share.
- **Motor:** Cutting and gluing help children practice fine motor skills. Hand-eye coordination is strengthened when children manipulate the stones to tell the story.

© 2014, Parents as Teachers National Center, Inc. ParentsAsTeachers.org

Parents as Teachers®

Parenting behavior …

Observing my child's development …

Reflecting with my child …

Continued learning

Put all the stones in a bag. Have your child pick five without peeking. Then encourage her to tell a story using just those stones.

Have your child sort the stones into categories any way she wants. Ask her to explain why she sorted the stones the way she did. Which pile has the most? The least? What are some other ways she could sort them?

Keeping it going …

© 2014, Parents as Teachers National Center, Inc. ParentsAsTeachers.org