



ON THE IMPORTANCE OF STORY

- **Everyone has a story to tell**
- **Anything can be a story**
- **A story can be anything....fact or fiction**
- **Children exposed to stories become successful readers**

Stories give children:

- a love and understanding of language
- a desire to become a reader
- an interest in new vocabulary and concepts
- an ability to predict
- the power to create and dramatize stories
- a sense of accomplishment
- an ability to listen and enjoy literature
- a rich sense of humor
- a curiosity and appetite for world knowledge
- a sense of the possible - the ridiculous, the absurd, the outrageous...
- a sense of wonder and passion for books

Stories come alive when the story teller:

- creates a relationship with the listener.
- communicates the special-ness of the story. .
- awakens many emotions - laughter, sadness, compassion, anger and wit.
- uses all the elements of good story telling: voice (roars, whispers), gestures, facial expressions (frowns, smiles, rolling eyes), etc.
- knows the true value of eye to eye contact.
- sustains a sense of drama.
- raises interesting questions which lead to imagination, wonder, knowledge.
- provides physical action, to stimulate the brain which promotes learning.
- extends the story through the arts - song, dance, dramatic play, clay and paint.
- provokes laughter releasing endorphins in the brain which make us happier and smarter.
- uses wondrous, illustrious words because children love them and will use them very appropriately even when they don't understand them.
- appreciates the importance of practice, practice, practice.