

Non-Fiction

Including non-fiction, or informational, texts in storytime

Although some nonfiction, or informational, books can be too wordy to read during your storytime, there are ways to include the book while engaging kids with different subjects and teaching them new vocabulary. The nonfiction section is often a good place to find nursery rhymes, fairy tales, and even short biographies for storytime. Also, employing different techniques like shortening the book and asking lots of questions can make the book more appropriate, engaging and interactive for storytimes.

Things to try

- Don't be afraid to paraphrase the text if there is a lot of it; talk about the pictures and ask the kids questions, such as asking them to describe a time they saw a spider, or got sick.
- When shortening a book, paperclip pages together so kids don't see what they're missing. Be prepared to talk about any pages they see.
- Even if you can't find any nonfiction books to read for your storytime, pull out books that will match the theme of your storytime to display nearby. These titles might not be a good match for storytime, but they might be perfect for children to check out and read at home with a caregiver.

Book Suggestions:

Informational books often feature great vocabulary from the world around us. These books might be too long for your storytimes, so feel free to shorten them or read them in a more interactive way. In general, look for simple text, engaging photos or illustrations, and engaging subject matter.

- *How to Spy on a Shark* by Lori Haskins Houron
- *An Egg is Quiet* by Dianna Aston
- *Actual Size* by Steve Jenkins
- *Do You Know Which Ones Will Grow?* by Susan Shea
- *Parts* by Tedd Arnold
- *Waiting for Wings* by Lois Ehlert

Getting Started:

In many ways, nonfiction titles are just like any other book you might use in storytime: they build good vocabulary; they teach kids about a topic; and they allow for plenty of interaction between adults and kids. Keeping this in mind can help you see the books you already know in a new light and get you started using nonfiction in your storytime.

- Get to know your collection! The best way to find nonfiction books in your library is to browse the aisles, read informational titles, and see what might work best for your storytimes for your audience.
- Take advantage of online lists or blog posts by librarians or other trusted sources that have already done the work of pulling out some great nonfiction titles to get started with. It can be a good jumping-off point for finding vetted storytime titles.