

5-Finger Story Retelling Visual

This is an easy visual you can create with your child to remember the parts that make up a story.

You can use this visual with your child when you retell stories together; when you talk about a story to understand it; and when you create a story. The idea is that your child internalizes (learns) the general structure of stories.

ACTIVITY:

- Trace your child's hand on a piece of paper
- Write the words on the fingers as shown in the example below
- Decorate the tips of the fingers (in order starting with the thumb) with an image of the following 5 parts of a simple story:
 1. (thumb) **Character/who:** People and/or animals
 2. (index finger) **Setting/where & when:** a house or a star
 3. (middle finger) **Problem/what is the problem or kick off:** A knot or a shoe
 4. (ring finger) **Events/what actions happened:** A chart with beginning/middle/end or a line of beads
 5. (pinky finger) **Solution:** a bow (you can add a heart on the fifth finger to represent how characters feel)
- Have your child participate with creating this visual – they can draw the images themselves or choose the images online or from a magazine.
- You can make one of these often. It can be very rough looking. The idea is that you review the components of story and use it as a guide to retell or create stories. You can also just use your hand to cue parts of a story once they've had some practice and familiarity with the visual.
- Have fun!!

