



Take a Photo and Tell a Personal Story/Narrative

Telling personal stories/narratives is a great way to boost narrative skills. People tell about their experiences and life events to each other to connect socially. It's important to practice these skills so your child can relate to peers and others and it supports academic language skills.

How to use simple photos to support telling personal stories/narratives:

- Take photos of activities you and your child do (with or without other people). ACTION photos where your child is engaged in an activity are the most powerful. This can be done easily with your cell phone or I-pad for larger screen. If you can, print on paper – black and white is fine, or simply look on your device
 - It's great to take photos of special events but also ordinary activities are a wonderful way for your child to practice telling their own story about what they did.
 - Everyone finds it motivating to look at pictures of themselves. Your child will like being the "star" of their own story.
- For personal narratives the "story" always contains: WHO was there, WHEN & WHERE it was and WHAT happened. It doesn't have to have a conclusion or a moral like many other stories often have.
- You can add as much detail as you want to the story. You can help expand your child's vocabulary this way.
- Pretend the person you are telling your story to can't see the picture so you have to make a picture in their mind! Or show them the picture (if you can) while your child tells the story.
- It's great if you can practice telling the personal story together and then practice telling someone else (like a grandparent or a friend of the family) who doesn't know the story.

It's good for your child to understand that the other person needs to hear who, when, where and what happened to understand the story. This promotes social engagement!

Photo of Personal Event/Activity	Components of Story	Personal Story Examples
	Character/who: Setting/where & when: Events/what actions happened: (first, then, next, last)	<i>Mom, Jared and I went to Stanley park yesterday afternoon for a bike ride</i> <i>First we rode our bikes on the seawall.</i> <i>Then we had a picnic.</i> <i>Then we put on the bikes on the car and drove home.</i> <i>It was so much fun. I want to do it next weekend!</i>
	Character/who: Setting/where & when: Events/what actions happened: (first, then, next, last)	<i>I ate dinner with Mom and Dad last night at the dining table.</i> <i>Mom cooked lots of vegetables. I peeled most of the carrots. I ate mine with noodles and hot sauce. It was so delicious. Dad loved this dinner too. After dinner I helped clean up. I want to keep helping with dinner.</i>