

Using My Imagination to Tell Stories: Ages 4-5

By using his imagination a child learns how to:

- Ask and answer questions to generate ideas
- Make up stories to express his individuality
- Tell a story in sequence to build working memory

Ideas to try with your child:

- Play a game called “What If?” Start by asking your child a silly question like, “What would happen if it started raining Jell-o?”; “What if the moon was made out of cheese?”; or “What if animals could talk?” Later, have him ask you silly questions he makes up.
- Make up a story to go with one of his “What If?” answers. Prompt by asking questions like, “So if animals could talk, what would they like to talk about?” Write down the story as they tell it.

If your child is struggling:

- Ask questions to help your child think through his story. Use questions like, “Where does the story take place? In a castle, on a farm?”; “Who is talking in your story?”; or “What’s the first thing that happens?”
- Draw a picture together as the story unfolds. This will help your child to remember what he has said.

Going further:

- Reread your child’s story back to him that you wrote down. Then, have him draw pictures that go along with it and make a book!
- Try playing the “What If?” game in the car. Let your child ask the questions about things he sees out the window. This will keep his mind active on the car trip and encourage lots of laughter!

The WA State Department of Early Learning and the Richland School District believes that parents, families, and caregivers are young children’s best teachers. This resource sheet, part of *Strong Foundations for School: Resource Guides for Parents of Young Children*, highlights a key developmental skill for **children ages 4-5** that parents can help improve at home.



Adapted from *WA State Early Learning and Development Guidelines, 2012*: “Use imagination to create a variety of ideas.” About Me and My Family and Culture, Ages 4-5, pg. 72