

# Building

**emotional learning and literacy**  
*Family Connections*

Capital District  
**Child Care Council** Encouraging Literacy Education and Parent Engagement (LEAPE)

## This is Comprehension!

As young children listen to stories they build knowledge about their world. They wonder, ask questions and make meaning of the stories they hear and read. This is comprehension!

### What you can do...

Story sticks can be used in a playful way to have a conversation after the story. Gather some wide popsicle sticks. With a marker, write one question on each stick: Who was in the story? Where did the story take place? What happened first in the story? How did the story end? What was your favorite part of the story? Read the questions on the stick with your child and then check along in the book for the answer. Your child will enjoy going back to find the page that has the information.

Relax when reading to your child. Interruptions are a sign that your child is thinking. A picture or idea in the story may have reminded them of something and what seems like an interruption is your child connecting an idea to a past experience.

Gently redirect if your child seems to be off topic with their response. This is an opportunity to ask a *what, where, or why* question to bring them back to the story.



**The great  
joy of reading  
is the ability to  
connect with  
words on the  
page**

### How does this benefit children...

Providing opportunities to re-tell stories increases your child's understanding of story structure (beginning, middle, end). When children use a story to check information they are learning how to use the text as a tool to check facts. Most of all they are developing the skills to enjoy books!

### Partner in Play:

#### Change the Game to fit Your Child

- Act it out: This can be an indoor or outdoor activity. Assign roles for the characters in the story and have fun re-telling in your own words.
- Create a picture story board. Have your child draw the story. Line the child's drawings up in the sequence of the story.
- Tape an audio: Make a recording of the story. Your child will love hearing your voice and delight in hearing themselves too!
- Keep a new and interesting word list