

## LEARNING ON THE GO: Literacy Tips for Young Children

Early literacy is what children know about reading and writing *before* they can actually read and write. One pre-reading skill that young children need in order to be ready to read is the ability to tell a story, which is called **narrative skill**.

Here are some ideas to help your child gain narrative skills:

- Reading stories with your child helps him understand that things happen in order – first, next, and last.
- When reading together, ask “what” questions. Point to a picture and say, “What is happening in this picture?”
- Young children enjoy reversing roles, so pick a book your child already knows and let her tell you the story.
- You can also help your child relate what is happening in the story to his own experiences; for example, you could ask “What happened when we went camping?”
- Tell family stories to your child, such as the story of the day your child was born or stories about family activities and events.
- Children like to make up stories and so you could tell a story together, taking turns adding to it. You could also tell classic stories together, such as “The Three Little Pigs”.

Being able to tell or retell a story will make learning to read easier!