



ABC's of Early Literacy

The Retelling Glove

Reading with children helps build a strong foundation for academic success. Reading skills help determine a child's ability to master content and knowledge and progress in school. The "Retelling Glove" is a way to help your child learn how to retell a story. Retelling a story helps children practice reading comprehension and helps them understand the heart of the story. By using the "Retelling Glove" children will learn to ask questions as they read which helps them develop critical thinking skills.

What You Need

- Plain, light colored glove (one per person)
- Fine point permanent markers

What to Do

Draw on each finger of the glove the following:

- Thumb: Stick person or face
- Index Finger: Tree, house or clock
- Middle Finger: Question mark, sad face, or lock
- Ring Finger: 1, 2, 3 or ladder
- Pinkie Finger: Happy face, exclamation point or key
- Palm of the hand: Heart or light bulb

How to Use

- Read a story together. Then put the glove on your hand and have the child retell the story according to the pictures on each finger.
 - Thumb: Who were the characters in the story?
 - Index Finger: When and where did the story take place?
 - Middle Finger: What is the problem in the story?
 - Ring Finger: What events happened in the story; what happened first, second, etc.?
 - Pinkie Finger: How was the problem fixed; what is the end of the story?
 - Palm of the hand: Theme: what is the message the author wanted to send?





- Have the child use the retelling glove to tell you and others the story by answering the questions for each finger. As the child gives you ideas for each finger put the finger down toward the palm of the hand.
- When all the fingers are down, then we have told the “heart” or idea of the story.
- Do this each time you read a new story to help increase the child’s understanding of the story.
- Change the questions that you use with your retelling glove so you are focusing on a different part of the story each time you use the retelling glove.
- Take turns, have the child wear the glove and with your support ask the questions and you retell the story. Help introduce younger children to the glove using this option.

Retelling Glove Questions

The questions below are suggestions to use with your Retelling Glove. You will have lots of questions that will also work with the retelling glove. Remember to make it fun!

Who

- Who is the main character in the story?
- Name some other characters in the story.
- Tell me about one of the characters.

Where

- Where does the story take place?
- Where do the characters live?

What

- What is the problem in the story?
- What happened in the story?

Events

- Retell the events in order: beginning, middle & end.
- What happened first, second, etc.?
- Tell me about a specific event.
- This is a great place to ask “why” questions.

Ending

- Tell me about the end of the story.
- Were you surprised at the way the story ended?
- Tell me another way the story could have ended.