

Speech and Language Therapy – Narrative Skills

Narrative skills are about storytelling and a narrative includes any account (spoken or written) that describes a sequence of events. When describing events we include information about people, places, time, the order that things happened and the outcome. This includes retelling stories and helps develop reading comprehension skills.

- Use words like 'first', 'next', 'then' and 'finally' to support children to talk through something they've done or a sequence of pictures from a story. Children can draw 2-3 pictures to help them to describe what they've done during the day or at the weekend.
- Teach children the concepts beginning, middle and end and help them to understand that stories have a beginning, a middle and an end.
- Use visuals to help children structure their narrative, e.g. 'wh' question words – Who is in the story? Where did it happen? When did it happen? What happened? What happened next?
- Identify the problem and solution in stories as well as how the characters feel to help children to describe 'What happened?' when retelling – visuals symbols can also be used for these parts of the narrative.