



Radio Stations : **All Community Radio Stations**  
Subject : **Early Childhood Development**  
Audience : **Parents, caregivers and educators**  
Program Topic : **The power of stories (LOVE)**

#### **Guidelines to the presenter**

- Presenter – please familiarize yourself with the brief and the use the facts effectively by referring to them from time to time during the show.
- You should be seen as a peer rather than an authority.
- Offer guidance or opinion rather than telling people what to do.
- Encourage people to seek further information
- Always keep the objectives and outcomes in mind and drive these.

#### **Topic:**

**The power of stories!**

#### **Objectives:**

- To promote early language and emergent literacy.
- To reinforce the link between language and brain development.
- To inform parents the important role they play in this regard through language development as they LOVE, PLAY, TALK and tell or read stories.
- To inform parents that story telling is a strong component in every language and culture.
- To give people ideas about types of stories for different ages of young children, as well as the how and why of storytelling or reading.

- To inform parents how to make simple books.
- To give people information on available resources such as NaI'ibali and libraries.

**Introduction**

In the last two sessions, we discussed the miracle of our little children acquiring language, and sometimes more than one language, without ever attending language school! We, the parents, are the specialist language teachers, and our little ones absorb the language they hear us speak as we LOVE, PLAY, TALK to them during our everyday lives. We've learned what an important part a loving relationship plays, and this is an equally important part of the power of stories!

Join us today as we discuss the power of stories and storytelling in the language development of your little one, as well as in strengthening your family relationships on <Show name>

Questions	Facts/Information
<p>1. <i>What exactly is storytelling and why is it important?</i></p>	<p>Story-telling is a part of human history. People of all cultures, all languages and throughout human history have passed stories down from generation to generation. It is one of the ways we give our children a sense of their belonging, their culture, their language, their heritage and their history. Children start telling stories soon after they begin to talk – they'll try &amp; tell you what happened, or together you remember your walk to the park or the shops in the morning; or what happened to Daddy when he got caught in the rain. A story can be as simple as a sequence of events. Reading and story-telling promote language, literacy and brain development.</p>

<p>2. <i>In the last two weeks, we've learned how important it is for mums and dads to talk to their baby from birth – to smile, make sounds, sing lullabies and tell him what you are doing, even if he doesn't understand. But surely there's no point in telling your baby stories?</i></p>	<p>Sharing stories is a wonderful way of spending special time together with your little one: a time to bond; to cuddle; to share an experience. Even though your baby can't understand your words, she will feel the comfort of your closeness; absorb the sound of your voice, the words you use, the rhythm of what you're saying. And all these sounds are processed in his little brain and will form the foundation of his ability to talk as he grows and develops.</p>
<p>3. <i>What sorts of stories should we tell babies and what is the best way to tell them?</i></p>	<p>Once baby is about 4 months old, you can start to look at pictures and books together, pointing to familiar objects and naming them. You can share rhymes and songs. There's plenty of repetition in rhymes and songs, and repetition is very important for language learning, as are the song rhythms and rhyming words. Your little one will especially love action rhymes that she can learn to do as well. He will love to look at photos of himself and family members. Baby's first books should preferably be cloth or plastic, as they will almost certainly be put into baby's mouth. Cloth books can be made, and sewing or sticking different textures onto pages is a lovely way to introduce words like soft, rough, hard, smooth, furry, shiny etc. From about 6 months you can introduce simple story books with large clear pictures. These too can be made by cutting out large pictures from magazines or drawing large colourful simple pictures. Read or talk slowly and spend time on each page so that</p>

<p>4. <i>What about toddlers? What kinds of stories do they enjoy?</i></p>	<p>baby can really look at the pictures as you discuss them together. Don't forget your baby will have a very short attention span, so let her dictate how long you look at books. Share books or stories with your little one at least every day, preferably more than once a day. Having a story time routine at bedtime is a lovely way to calm your little one and get them ready for sleep.</p> <p>By the time your baby becomes a toddler, his attention span will be a little longer. You can start to introduce a greater variety of new objects, concepts and ideas: books on food, transport, farm animals, wild animals, other children, colours, shapes and numbers of objects. Help your toddler choose a book and don't be surprised if she chooses the same story over and over again! This may be very boring for you, but the repetition is very important for your little one. You can add interest by getting your child to say the next word, description, or next action or to complete the story. Have fun making the noises of the animals or vehicles. If you don't have any books, use pictures from magazines or adverts and make up stories; or tell her stories about when she was a baby; or you as a child. The people, animals and objects around us make wonderful subjects for stories! Make reading and story-time relaxed and fun so that your child looks forward to it, and remember to be guided by his interests and attention span.</p>
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<p>5. <i>And what about the pre-schooler? What kinds of stories do they enjoy?</i></p>	<p>Your 3 to 5 year old will LOVE story-time with you and now you can really have fun with all sorts of stories and factual books. 3 to 5 year olds especially enjoy nonsense stories or stories that use humour and a sense of fun. Your pre-schooler may have developed special interests such as dinosaurs, sport, the stars, the sea or different vehicles. They may have started taking an interest in letters of the alphabet and written words. Young children learn how to handle books and look after them; how to turn the pages and start to recognise that written words are symbols for things. Soon they will start to recognise some letters, especially the letters in their name. You can start to point out letters in street signs, on packaging, on T shirts, on posters or billboards. You can share or tell more complex stories and ask more complex questions that really make your child think: questions like, “What do you think will happen next?” “How do you think that made him feel?” “What would you have done?” “Why do you think she did that?”</p>
<p>6. <i>What do young children learn from stories?</i></p>	<p>Stories spark your child’s imagination, stimulate curiosity and greatly expand your child’s vocabulary, language development and therefore his brain development. Interesting pictures, or pictures of new people, objects, places or situations introduce your child to new information, new ideas and new understanding. Stories improve concentration and memory.</p>

<p>7. <i>When should one tell stories?</i></p>	<p>They help your child learn the difference between 'real' and 'make believe'. Stories can also be a safe way to explore and come to terms with strong emotions or situations that your child finds challenging or frightening. Books about going to the dentist, hospital, starting school or being separated from a parent can help him cope with these situations better. So stories also help with the child's emotional, social, inter-personal and communication skills. Most important – really listen to your child's own stories – this will give you real insight into what he is thinking and experiencing. And then of course there's the bonding; the strengthening of that very special relationship between you and your child as you share the magic of story time together. Your child experiences your love and care; your undivided attention that tells him he's important in your eyes. And this strengthens her self-belief; her self-confidence and her self-esteem. A child who's confident and believes in himself will conquer the most unbelievable challenges in life!</p> <p>Stories can be the most wonderful way of entertaining a child anywhere, anytime – bedtime, bath time, potty time, on the taxi, in the car, on the bus, waiting at the clinic – any time is good story time! Make books and stories part of your daily routine, but do make sure you include stories in your child's life EVERY DAY.</p>
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8. *What's the best way to tell stories to young children?*

It's nice to have somewhere where you and your child can sit together comfortably to share story time. Do turn off the radio or TV so that there are no distractions, especially if story time is part of bedtime routine and a time for your child to become calm and settled. Make sure that your child can clearly see the pictures in the book, or can see your face and facial expressions. Involve your child as you read by discussing various aspects of the story or doing the actions or making the sounds. Do let your child choose the book or story she wants, even if this means having the same story over and over again! You could always have the old favourite PLUS a new story. At other times of the day, you can have the fun of co-creating stories and then of illustrating them. This can be great fun for the whole family! One person starts off the story and then each member of the family takes turns in adding detail or the next event. You can also use puppets or draw characters on the tips of your fingers to be finger puppets. Use different voices for different characters. Do get your child to express opinions and ask him questions that make your child think and require more than a 1 or 2 word answer. Link new things back to what she already knows and understands. And don't forget that older brothers and sisters often enjoy reading stories to their little brothers and sisters. It makes them feel important too!

<p>9. <i>What is the link between story-telling and literacy? How can parents promote early literacy with their young children?</i></p>	<p>There is a strong link between storytelling, book reading and literacy. Children first understand concrete objects, then recognise pictures as symbols of the real object and eventually recognise that words are the symbols that represent people, objects and ideas. It is important for parents to draw the attention of their pre-school children to the written word, as there is a strong link between access to books and print materials, early literacy and learning to read. Sadly there are more homes in South Africa without books, than there are homes with books. However, there is lots of print around us, if we look for it - road signs; shop frontage; labels on food stuffs, T shirts, adverts, magazines etc. You can also get the Nal'ibali story supplements from many Sunday newspapers. Do get a paper and pen ready and at the end of the programme I will give the Nal'ibali website where one can download stories for free.</p>
<p>10. <i>What happens if parents can't afford books?</i></p>	<p>If you do not have suitable books for young children in your home, you can make books quite easily by using scrap paper with one clean side, or a piece of cardboard such as the inside of a cereal box. Then you can either stick cut out pictures or draw simple bold pictures with kokis or crayons. You can make glue by mixing a thick paste of flour &amp; water. If you have family photos or photos of your little one as a baby, make a book and she will love to look at this.</p>

<p><i>11. Can you tell us more about libraries and how they work?</i></p>	<p>Once your child gets to 3 you can add the simple short words of the story underneath, so that she is beginning to understand that words represent people, objects or ideas, even if she can't read them. There are also second hand bookshops that sell books more cheaply. Even more important, release the stories inside you! All of us have stories from our own childhood, families, pets, places, culture and history that we can share with our little ones. Use load shedding as special family story telling time – a time to share our own stories or make up new ones! And of course, if there is a library near you, you can join for free and have access to all the books you and your child could ever want!</p> <p>There are libraries in all South African towns and in many townships. Membership is free. You just need to produce the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Your ID</li><li>• Proof of home address (like an account that has been posted to you)</li><li>• Full home and work details of a person not living in the same house as you (this is so they have a contact person to remind you to return books if you forget)</li><li>• Birth certificate if the application is for a child</li><li>• If unemployed, somebody living in the</li></ul>
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<p><i>12. You mentioned that you will give us the details of the Nal'ibali website and other resources. I hope everyone has a pen and paper ready!</i></p>	<p>same house as you who does work, or a second contact person.</p> <p>Libraries are an amazing resource. All of them are staffed by librarians who are trained to help you find suitable books or special books you are looking for. Generally you can take books home for 2 weeks. Very often they will also have audio (recorded) books and other electronic media such as CDs &amp; DVDs as well. Some libraries also offer access to computers and the internet. Most libraries have story telling sessions and special holiday programmes for children where they have lots of interesting, fun things for children to do. Do join the library if there is one near you or you go into a town on a regular basis.</p> <p>Yes. Nal'ibali is an amazing programme that brings new stories to many ages of children every two weeks in many different ways: through the print media (usually supplements in newspapers – Times Media newspapers; Sunday Times Express (English and isiXhosa); Sunday World (in KZN &amp; Gauteng – English and isiZulu) (in Free State – English and Sesotho) (in Limpopo – English and Sepedi); Daily Dispatch and The Herald – English and isiXhosa); You can also download Nal'ibali story supplements in English, isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sesotho and Afrikaans off their website: <a href="http://www.nalibali.org">www.nalibali.org</a></p> <p>Nal'ibali stories are read on all public SABC radio stations in all official languages at least 3</p>
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	times a week. Phone in on 02 11 80 40 80 after this show to find out what times Nal'ibali stories are read on your favourite channel.
<p><b>Learning outcomes</b></p>	
<p>After listening to this show the audience should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognise the link between early language and emergent literacy.</li> <li>• Recognise the link between language and brain development.</li> <li>• Be aware of the important role they play in regard to language development as they LOVE, PLAY, TALK and tell or read stories.</li> <li>• Realise that story telling is a strong component in every language and culture.</li> <li>• Gain ideas about types of stories for different ages of young children, as well as the how and why of storytelling or reading.</li> <li>• Know how to make simple books.</li> <li>• Know about available resources such as Nal'ibali and libraries.</li> </ul>	