

Reading and Telling Stories to Our Children

Big Idea #1

As parents, your memories of school, teachers and classroom learning are often very different from what your children experience going to school in the U.S. today.

Big Idea #2

Picture books are stories told using a combination of art and text. They are written and illustrated by adults for children. Picture books are used in many U.S. elementary school classrooms to develop literacy, present information and encourage the appreciation of good stories.

Big Idea #3

Reading picture books together can be an especially meaningful experience for families learning English and adjusting to a new environment. Reading picture books can help both children and adults improve English language skills of listening, reading, writing, and speaking. These stories may provide a “window” to learn new ideas, a “mirror” to reflect some aspect of ourselves, and a “bridge” to help us connect with each other. Finally, picture books can inspire us to tell our own special stories.



window



mirror



bridge