

# Drawing What You Know

## Targeted skill

Young children are expected to record their ideas and reflections. By using drawing to do so, they are forming a foundation for learning to write these things later on.

## Materials

- ◆ paper
- ◆ drawing materials such as crayons, felt-tip markers, or colored pencils

## What to do

As you share a story with your child, read the text until just before you come to the climax—the “exciting part” or a part that is important to the ending of the story. Ask your child to “draw what you know.” Help your child recall details from the story that lead up to this important point in the story. After the drawing is complete, read the rest of the story and compare your child’s drawing to what happened in the story.

## Extending the activity

- ✦ Your child could draw attributes of a character. For example, if a character is particularly kind, the drawing might include several kind things the character did in the story.

## More questions to ask

Ask your child to make predictions about the story. He or she can draw these predictions and then compare them to the actual story. Emphasize that these are simply “predictions” about what might happen, and that any differences are not things that your child got “wrong.”

## What your child is practicing

Your child is recognizing that he or she knows facts from a story rather than just listening without any involvement. Also, learning to represent what he or she knows by drawing helps prepare your child for learning to read.