

## Early Reading:

Setting the stage for literacy learning

### Why it's important:

An adult, a child and a book is a rich learning space.

- When you read with a child you are creating a space of curiosity, safety and connection. It is a calming experience.
- Reading stories aloud allows you to stop and discuss the pictures, teach new words, ask questions and make connections to your child's own life experiences.
- Reading aloud introduces your child to book language, which is more sophisticated than regular conversation and will enhance their language comprehension.
- **In this activity, the focus is on identifying the main idea of the story as a fun challenge. It deepens comprehension for children as they select the key words--the golden ideas-- of the story.**



### In 20 Words or Less

Select a book to read--could be a new one, or an old favourite.

**Talk about the pictures--the characters and the events--as you go.**

After reading:

**in 20 words or less**

*(use your fingers!)*

***what is this story about?***

Some things to prioritize:

the character

the problem and solution

what the character learned

**choose your words carefully!**

**Do you each have the same big idea about the story?**

Note: keep it light--this is a fun thinking challenge, like a puzzle!

### Challenge?

Once you are both pretty good at this, see if you can cut it down to 10 words! Paring down our words makes us have to think harder! When you can do this, you really have the gist of the story!