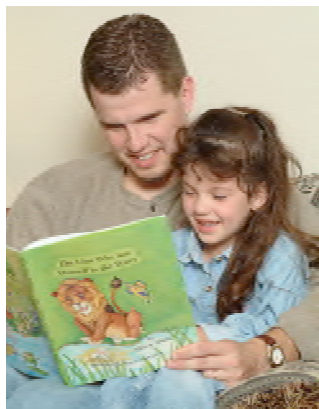


READ TOGETHER

Hoopoe Books' Share Literacy™ Newsletter



Enjoy this ancient story from Afghanistan with your child.



Good stories are told and retold. This one about Share the Lion and his jungle friends is at least 700 years old and comes from Afghanistan in Central Asia. When you read it with your child, you'll start to understand how useful this kind of story can be.

Good stories like this one prepare children so that they are able to think more clearly and make better choices in life.

Children often identify with a resourceful character in a book. They imagine similar traits in themselves. Then, when faced with problems, they will naturally copy these behaviors and make them their own. Teaching-stories like these help prepare your child for experiences later in life and often address issues that children are concerned with but feel unable to talk about clearly.

This Home Literacy Kit is developed especially for young children and their caregivers to use at home. We'd like to send you similar kits with new stories, CDs and materials. This can only happen if your child's teacher knows that you and your child have enjoyed the first two.

So, please complete the enclosed questionnaire and make sure your child's teacher gets it. This is the only way to ensure that programs like these continue for you and your children.

Thank you! Enjoy!

For children, this story gently explores how fears can arise in the mind and how they can be overcome with more information

The Lion Who Saw Himself in the Water
by Idries Shah



Remember, children enjoy stories even more if they share what they are learning with their families.



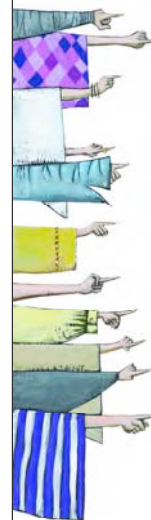
Your child has read the story of The Lion Who Saw Himself in the Water at school today.

Before you start to read aloud or play the CD, why not encourage your child to tell you the story as you turn the pages and look at the illustrations together?



Did you Know?

- * Children do better in school when parents and families read together at home.
- * You open up a whole world to your children when reading becomes a part of the family's activities.
- * Children will do better in school if they practice at home by learning the letters of the alphabet and recognizing words all around them.
- * In addition to reading, there are many fun things that you can do that will help your child become a successful reader.



See next page...

BOOK TALK

Fun with *The Lion Who Saw Himself in the Water*

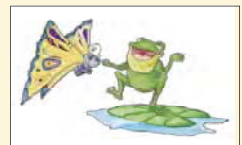
- * First, read the story together with your child. You might feel more comfortable listening to the CD together the first time you read this book. If you need help using the CD, please refer to the instruction page included in this kit.
- * After you have read or listened to this story together, talk about it with your child. There are lots of things in this story that you can talk about, for example:
 - What part did he or she like best, and why?
 - What part of the story did each child find most important, and why?
 - Does your child agree that the lion was a silly lion? Why, or why not?



These kinds of questions have no wrong answers! They will encourage your children to think about the story in their own way and help them feel confident about expressing themselves.

Picture Gallery

- * Have your child draw something from the story that is a favorite part.
- * Imagine that you are your child's height. Wouldn't it be fun to be able to have pictures to look at that were not too far above you?
- * When the drawing is finished, tape it to the wall at a height that your child can see, maybe just a few feet above the floor. You can place other samples of your children's artwork on the lower parts of your walls, too, so that they and their friends can enjoy seeing what they create at their own height, and you have a whole new place to display it all!



IN YOUR HOME AND OUT IN THE WORLD

Reflections

- * Look for things that create a reflection.
- * Look into a mirror and make a face into it.
- * Ask your children what other things might be used to see a reflection.



- * A window?
- * A piece of silverware?
- * Aluminum foil?
- * A puddle?
- * A faucet?
- * A T.V. screen
(when it's turned off)?
- What else?

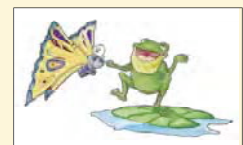
Older children in your family might find another meaning to the word “reflection.” Think about it!

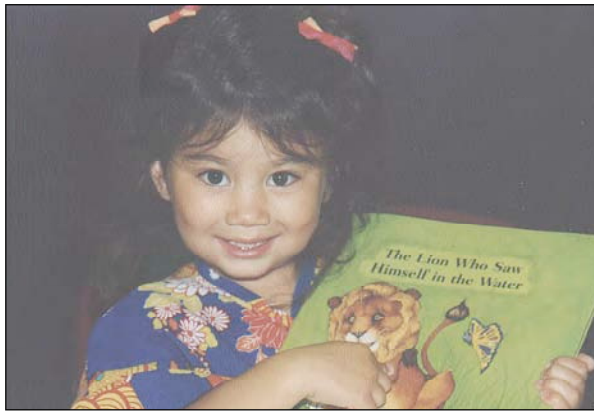
Make a Grocery List Together

- * When it is time to make your grocery list, ask your child to help you.
- * Make sure you have a large enough piece of paper so that it will be easy for your child to write.
- * Ask your child to copy the word from a package that you already have in your refrigerator or on the shelf. Or say the word and help him or her write out one or more of the items you need to buy, such as:

milk
rice
cheese
apples
lettuce

- * When you get to the grocery store, look for the sign under the food item, or on the item itself, and have your child “read” the word with you as you select the item.
- * Make a game of this for your children. When one of them can find the item on the grocery shelf *and* point out the word that spells it, he or she gets to put it in the cart.





Stay involved in your child's education

Children do so much better in school when there is a lot of communication between families and teachers. Even if you didn't like school or do well there, you can make your child's experience an enjoyable one.

Start when they are young - it is easiest then! They love your interest. Ask them about their school day, what they did and what they are learning. At first they will have little to say, but if you keep up the conversation, they'll learn to respond.

Again, try to do this at the same time each day, for example, while they are eating, getting ready for bed, or before you begin to read together.

Be aware of any fears or problems your child may have so you can talk about them with the teacher.

Let the teacher know who you are, even if you can't be around during the day when your child is in school. The teacher will appreciate knowing you care about your child's education.

Let the teacher know about any changes or things that might affect how your child behaves at school. Teachers can help both you and your child if they understand what is going on.

Always look for papers, notes, or art work that your children bring home from school. Keep their work displayed. Make sure the notes get back to the teacher to let her know you are involved.

For more titles in this series and ideas on how to use them, visit our website: www.hoopoekids.com

10 tips for reading to your older toddlers and young children

● **Pick a time each day** when you and your child can relax and unwind. Try to pick the same time every day so that reading together becomes a routine and wonderful habit.

● **Make a game of reading** to your children. You don't always have to start at the beginning of the book. Let your child guide you.

● **Talk about the pictures** in the story. Children become more aware when you give them time to explore all of the little things on the pages. This helps them remember the story.

● **Use your voice** to make the characters in the story come alive. Imagine what the lion sounds like, or how the butterfly might speak.

● **Let your child "read" to you.** After hearing a story several times, your child will be able to remember much of it and will want to "read" it to you by linking the story he or she remembers with the pictures.

● **Talk about the story.** What are your child's favorite parts? How else could things have happened?

● **Talk about other stories** and ask your children if this story reminds them of any other story they have heard, and then talk about why that is.

● **Let your child choose** the book you read together. Don't be surprised if he or she wants to hear the same book many times!

● **Have your child draw pictures** about the story. Pick another time of day for this. Perhaps have him or her draw at the kitchen table while you are preparing a meal. Make sure you keep your children's artwork and display it where it can be seen.

● **Carry books with you** when you are running errands, going to the doctor, or traveling with your child. Need something to do when you are waiting or traveling from place to place? Read together!