Episode: “Big Orange Fuzzy Thing”
When Albie opens a gift meant for Jay's friend, she tries to come up with a story about how the gift was opened. Albie visits a comic book artist who helps her develop a sequence for her story, before encouraging her to tell the truth.

Activity

Materials:
- Printer and print-out of the Albie’s Elevator Film Strip
- Scissors
- Drawing supplies
- Tape

Steps:
1. Watch “Big Orange Fuzzy Thing” to see comic book artist Steven Arnold help Albie tell a story using only pictures. Start to imagine your own story to tell through pictures.
2. Print the elevator template, and cut on the long dotted line. Set the “film strip” aside.
3. Cut the dotted lines between the elevator doors and along the top.
4. Fold doors forward to open them.
5. Fold the paper in half along the solid line, so that the elevator doors are on the front.
6. Put a small piece of tape on each side of the door to secure the paper at the bottom.
7. Go back to your film strip and draw a story, just like Steven did. Try to divide your story into a beginning, middle and end. Think of each box in your film strip as the next part of your story.
8. When your film strip is complete, slide it through the folded paper to see your story appear through the elevator doors!

No printer? No problem! Simplify the activity by drawing out your own film strip on a piece of paper and cutting your own set of elevator doors.
Tips

• If storytelling is new to your child, it may be helpful to have them recount a routine, like what they do in the morning or before bedtime. Encourage your child to use words like first, then, next and last.

In this activity, your child:

• Learned about storytelling and imagined a sequence of events
• Created a film strip to tell their story through pictures
• Assembled a pretend elevator to see their story play out in Albie’s Elevator

Talk to your child! Conversation Starters:

• How did Albie feel when she first saw the present on the elevator? Why do you think she opened it? Have you ever felt a feeling like this?
• What did you imagine was in the present for Jay’s friend? Were you surprised when you found out what was inside or who the present was for?
• The comic book artist tells Albie that telling the truth can sometimes feel hard, but it is also very important. Why do you think telling the truth is so important, even and especially when we make mistakes?

Vocabulary

Beginning: How a story starts
Middle: What happens in between the start and end of a story
End: When a story is finished!
Honesty: Telling the true or real story of something
Truth: What actually happened
Keep Going!

Act it Out
You’ve created a film strip or storyboard in this activity. These are real tools that TV and filmmakers use to bring a story to life. Try acting out your story for an audience. Grab some props and wear some costumes, and don’t forget those important sequential words.

Watch “Stories”
There’s another Albie’s Elevator episode about storytelling…called “Stories!” Watch this episode to learn more about beginnings, middles and ends.
More At-Home Activities
Visit PBS LearningMedia for more activities like this inspired by *Albie’s Elevator*.

Children’s Books with Related Themes
Check out these children’s books online or at your local library to continue exploring the concepts in this episode.

*Waiting is Not Easy* by Mo Willems
Piggie has a surprise for Gerald, and Gerald can hardly wait. He quickly realized that waiting for a surprise is not easy.

*Pig the Fibber* by Aaron Blabey
A silly book about Pig the pug whose tall tales get him in all kinds of trouble.

*I’m Sorry* by Michael Ian Black
Potato struggles with apologizing to Flamingo and tries to escape their conflict in all kinds of ways.