Episode: “Stories”

Albie meets a storyteller named Ricochet on the elevator, who tells an amazing tale of his adventures in Paris. When Albie wishes that she had a great story to tell, too, she learns that everyone has a story! All you need is a beginning, middle and end.

Activity

Materials:
- 8.5 x 11 inch paper
- Scissors
- Cardboard (cereal boxes are perfect!)
- Glue or tape
- Drawing and writing supplies

Steps:
1. Watch the episode called “Stories,” and listen to Ricochet teach Albie about the three parts of every story: a beginning, middle and end. Can you describe the beginning, middle and end of the episode?
2. You can create your own story and even a miniature book using just a piece of paper and cardboard. Start by folding your piece of paper into thirds the long way.
3. Unfold and cut along one of the lines so that you have a long strip of paper. Set the rest of the paper aside.
4. Fold your strip of paper back and forth like a fan to create an accordion. Aim for about six folds (so that you’re folding every one-and-a-half inch or so). Each fold will be a page of your book.
5. Cut two pieces of cardboard to be the cover and back of your book. You can trace the end of your accordion to get the right size.
6. Glue or tape the cardboard pieces to the front and back flap of the accordion.
7. Now you have an accordion book to fill with a story! Decide what you’d like your story to be about. It might even be the story of your bedtime routine,
Tips

• Some children might find it easier to draw on the pages while they’re flat. In that case, it can be helpful to draw lines where your folds will be so that they can see where each page ends.

• The pages of the miniature accordion book are small, which makes it feel extra special. It might be tricky for little fingers to get a hang of drawing in a small space. Try using larger and longer paper for more space, or embrace the size as part of the challenge.

• It’s okay if your child’s stories are abstract scribbles! Listen actively while your child describes for you what part of their story they have in mind.

In this activity, your child:

• Identified sequential words (beginning, middle, end)

• Verbalized and drew pictures of the beginning, middle and end of a story or routine

• Practiced fine motor skills by helping to fold, unfold, cut and assemble an accordion book

Talk to your child! Conversation Starters:

• Let’s talk about the beginning, middle and end of our day today. What part of the day are we in right now?

• Tell me the story in your book! Where is the beginning, middle and end?

• How did Albie feel at first when she felt like she didn’t have a story to share? What did she learn from Ricochet?

school day or something from your imagination.

8. Let your child draw the beginning of the story on the first two pages, followed by the middle and the end on the next pages. Let them share what they’re drawing verbally. Don’t forget to draw on the cover!

9. Grown-ups can transcribe their child’s words to go along with the pictures in the story. The miniature books are quite small, though, so it’s okay if it’s a picture book only!
**Keep Going!**

**Family Storytelling**
Model storytelling by sharing some of your own stories with your kids. Think of funny stories from your childhood or of stories about your child from before they can remember. Make sure to give a clear beginning, middle and end.

**Make Story Cards**
Print the Albie's Elevator story cards printable as another way to tell stories. You can also create your own story cards by drawing objects, people and places on different slips of paper. Draw a card and use the picture on the card to start off a story. Keep adding to your story as you draw more cards!

**Vocabulary**

**Beginning:** The start of the story  
**Middle:** What happens after the story starts but before it ends  
**End:** How the story finishes
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.

*Ralph Tells a Story* by Abby Hanlon
While all of his friends have stories to share, Ralph thinks he has none! He finally realizes that stories can be about anything and shares some of his own unique storytelling tips.

*A Squiggly Story* by Andrew Larsen
A young boy wants to write stories just like his big sister, except he doesn’t know how to spell just yet! He comes up with his own unique and squiggly way of writing a story.