

These tips and tricks can help make sessions engaging, fun, and full of learning!

## Greetings and Welcome

*Approximately 5 minutes before program begins:*

- Greet kids and families with a calm but excited voice.
- Play soft background music. This helps families settle in without fear of being too loud or too quiet. Turn the music off to help signal the official beginning of the program.
- Use a puppet! This is a great time to introduce attendees to your sidekick, allowing the kids to lead the exchange and set boundaries.
- If you use nametags, allow families to search for or to create their nametags during this time.



Storytime in a Box activity at Salmon Public Library. Courtesy Erin Barrett.

## Introductions and Expectations

- Welcome attendees into storytime.
- Introduce yourself (and your puppet, if using one).
- Explain the adult expectations for storytime.
- Preview the program, using provided [visual agenda cards](#); remove the items as you complete them. Previewing the program offers kids and families a glimpse of what to expect. It can help ease anxiety or uncertainty and help kids manage expectations. If kids know what is happening next, they are more likely to participate.
- Encourage adults and caregivers to participate. *Children are more likely to retain information when caregivers are present and engaged. The storytimes in this program are designed for the whole family or adult/child group.*