



# How Chipmunk Got His Stripes

by Joseph Bruchac and James Bruchac

Reading with your child is an excellent way to expose your child to words, topics, and ideas that are more complex than what they would see in books they can read on their own.

Conversations will help increase your child's oral language skills and build their vocabulary. C.A.R. is a conversation starter that you can use with your child any time.

Below is an example of how to use C.A.R. with the book, *How Chipmunk Got His Stripes*.



C.A.R.	Example
<p><b>C</b> <b>Comment and Wait</b> (count to 5)  <i>*Make a comment about what you see on the page.</i></p>	<p><i>Adult:</i> I see that there are lots of animals gathered around Bear and Brown Squirrel.</p> <p><i>Child:</i> They are all waiting to see if the sun will come up!</p>
<p><b>A</b> <b>Ask questions and Wait</b> (count to 5)  <i>*Ask questions that do not have a "yes/no" or one-word answer to them.</i></p>	<p><i>Adult:</i> I wonder what they will all do if the sun does come up?</p> <p><i>Child:</i> They will probably think that Brown Squirrel is better than Bear.</p>
<p><b>R</b> <b>Respond</b> by adding a little more to the child's response.</p>	<p><i>Adult:</i> That's a great thought! If the sun does come up, maybe Bear will stop bragging and he will be nicer to the other animals.</p>



## Activities

After reading and discussing the book a couple of times, ask your child to retell the story in one or more of the following ways:

- » Draw pictures of the different scenes on index cards or small pieces of paper that depict the beginning, middle and end of the story and then have a show-and-tell with a family member.
- » Draw the main characters on card stock and cut them out. If craft sticks are available have your child glue or tape their characters on to craft sticks to create character puppets. Then your child can use these puppets to retell the main events.
- » Draw a picture of the action in the story while telling a family member what is happening.

## Parent Tips

- » Incorporate reading into your daily routine.
- » Create a quiet, special place in your home for your child to read, write and draw.
- » Talk to your child about their favorite part of the story so they make a connection with what they read.
- » As your child works on activities related to the book ask them questions or give them hints to help them with their thinking. You can even help them by providing an example.
- » Visit the local library and sign up for a library card to enable your child to select books on based on their interests.

## More Activities

Understanding Characters

- » Bear and Brown Squirrel act and speak like people. Help your child use words and what they know from the story to help them figure out why these characters act the way that they do.
- » Create a chart like this one to list story clues and ideas.

Character's Names	Words	What I Know	Actions

- » Act out the story with your child. Help your child write a simple script that contains that characters' actions and words. You don't have to act out the entire story. Just pick a short section that helped you fill in the chart above.
- » Let your child play both roles to explore how the different characters behaved in the scene.
- » After the performance, talk to your child about what it was like to be a particular character. Ask your child: What do you think your character was thinking when that happened?

## Related Books/Resources

### ***Rabbit's Snow Dance***

by James and Joseph Bruchac, illustrated by Jeff Newman

### ***How Raven Got His Crooked Nose: An Alaskan Dena'ina Fable***

retold by Barbara J. Atwater and Ethan J. Atwater, illustrated by Mindy Dwyer

### ***Head, Body, Legs: A Story From Liberia***

retold by Won-Ldy Pan and Margaret H. Lippert, illustrated by Julie Paschkis

### ***Why the Sky is Far Away: A Nigerian Folktale retold***

by Mary Joan Gerson, illustrated by Carla Golembe

