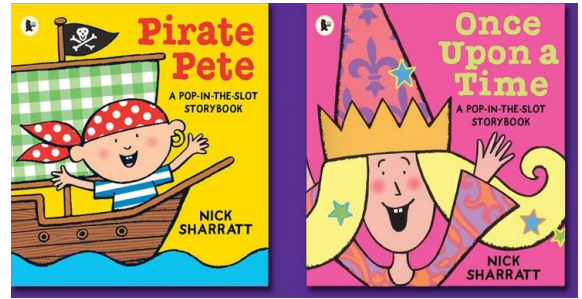


## April Storybook Lesson

### Once Upon a Time and Pirate Pete (choose the story)

By Nick Sharratt

Choose your storybooks are designed to have your child change the story each time by 'pop in the slot' different items to change the story each time. You can change where the character lives, their pets, what they play with, and what they eat.



Using books like these can add to your child's vocabulary can give you time together to be silly (will the princess live in a teapot or a treehouse? Will Pirate Pete find a giraffe in the sea?). These books come with items that are child-hand friendly. I prefer adding Velcro on the back to make moving them from place to place easier for little hands. Each piece has a matching place so your child can be in charge of finding the matches, or as in many cases, you can put the book back together without too much of a challenge.

Both books have been made into read alouds on YouTube like many books. Each video has a different way of presenting the book. There are many ways to have your child experience a book that does not involve sitting and listening to each page.

Sometimes you get one or two pages in, and your child is done. Occasionally your child may bring you the book, and you sit together to read. Then your child closes the book and is all done. Look at the 'story' to think outside of the book. How can I make this come to life?

### [PIRATE PETE: A POP-IN-THE-SLOT STORYBOOK - YouTube](#)

### [Once Upon a Time by Nick Sharratt. Stories for children at home. - YouTube](#)



#### Activities you can do at home to support this book

1. **Pretend Play** be Pete the Pirate and play I spy with items in your home.
2. **Big Muscle Play** create an obstacle course inside – row the boat, climb the mast, dig through pillows find treasure.
3. **Art** You can scan or take pictures of the pieces and have your child glue them onto paper. They can brush the glue on, squeeze the glue, or use a glue stick. 'dot, dot, dot,' 'push,' 'pat,' choosing the piece to glue next, naming, making noises, or fun gestures for the pieces.



#### Some tips for reading with toddlers

1. Find a comfortable place to sit together with the book
2. Be flexible in how you read the book – your child may be more into the pictures or not want to sit for too long.
  - a. Skip the words, talk about the pictures
  - b. Show your child things that are familiar to their world
  - c. Be silly in your voices and facial expressions – this is a great way to encourage mimicking/copying with your child
  - d. Skip pages – do the pages that your child finds interesting at first and slowly add to the story as your child engages more.
3. It is OK to never read a single word in a book and instead focus on the pictures, the familiar, and move at your child's pace/attention