



## Looking at the Past, Present, and Future

When your child starts kindergarten, she needs to be able to talk about things that happened in the past, are currently occurring (the present), or that will occur in the future. Here's how you can help your child learn to talk about the past, present and future:

### Infants & Toddlers

- Make a scrapbook of your child's life. Include drawings, photos, or writings to record the memories. As your child gets older, add new pages. Look at it often with your child; talk about the events and how he has grown!
- Read books to your child about people or events from the past.
- Talk about your child's past. For example, "I remember the day you were born. It was ..." "When you were a little baby, your first word was Da-Da. You used to call everything Da-Da." Or, "On your first day of preschool, you wore a pink dress. You were so excited to meet your teacher."
- Ask your child to tell you about the day – what happened first, second, and so on.

### Preschoolers

- Give your child four to five pictures of himself at different ages. Ask your child to put them in order. Have him talk about how he has changed over time.
- Share your family history. Talk about the people and places of your childhood. Encourage other family members and relatives to do the same.
- Talk about the future. For example, say: "What do you want to be when you grow up?" "What do you think cars will look like in the future?" Or "How tall do you think you'll be when you're 10? What will you look like?"
- Visit a living history museum. In Maryland, try: The Flag House & Star Spangled Banner Museum, USS Constellation, the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History, the Benjamin Banneker Historical House and Museum, or any of the Smithsonian Institutes in Washington, DC. When you get home, encourage your child to draw pictures or talk about what she saw.
- Discuss upcoming events: "Tomorrow, we are going to the grocery store." "Saturday is your soccer game. Or, "Next week is your birthday!"

### Book Suggestions

A Picture Book of Sacagawea by David A. Adler • Then and Now by Heather Amery  
Then & Now by S. Berger and D. Moreton • 100 Years Ago by Donna Marriott  
When I Was Young in the Mountains by Cynthia Rylant