

Summer 2018



University of Kentucky  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment  
Cooperative Extension Service

# Teaching Tip

Pam Sigler, Senior Extension Specialist

## Storytelling

Storytelling has been used to transmit information for centuries. Research shows that our brains respond well to the structure of a story, helping us absorb the information and connect it with our own experiences.

Different stories produce different kinds of reactions. Personal stories help create or strengthen a bond between the presenter and the audience. Stories of fiction stimulate the imagination.

Spending time storytelling during a program keeps the learning experience highly engaging. Programs that include storytelling encourage the participants to relate their own stories. Sharing their stories (fact or fiction) expands their critical thinking, memory, and vocabulary skills.

Storytelling can spark a conversation about difficult situation. Family and Consumer Sciences curriculum uses stories in *Blue to You* to initiate discussion. The new *Farmers Dinner Theater* programs use dramatic presentations to address farm safety issues. 4-H Communication lessons encourage youth to research, write and present stories that are of interest to them.

*Adapted from Scientific Learning: Fast ForWard, 2018*

PROGRAM & STAFF DEVELOPMENT • (859) 257-7193 • [psd.ca.uky.edu](http://psd.ca.uky.edu)

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.  
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND KENTUCKY COUNTIES, COOPERATING