



STORYTELLING



1. CHOOSE A GOOD STORY

Consider children's language level and interests. Find stories that 'tell well'. Use your library!

Choose ones that YOU enjoy – you'll tell them better!

Stories are everywhere: in books; from your own childhood; from friends and family

2. PREPARE YOURSELF

Read the story several times beforehand; check for unusual words; find the climax. Practise!

How will you introduce the story? Talk about the topic, the book cover, or use a prop

How might children join in? Repetitive phrases, actions, sound words, etc.

3. THINK OF THE AUDIENCE

Sit children comfortably on carpet or cushions, in a space free from distractions

How might the story extend the children's language development and concentration span?

Think about the size of the group. Make sure all children can see easily, and take part

4. USE YOUR VOICE AND HANDS

Speak clearly, making eye contact. Use gestures – your hands, and your whole body!

Vary your voice: loud/soft, high/low, fast/slow – but keep the story moving!

Above all, use a sense of drama. Exaggerate. Don't be afraid to 'go over the top'!

5. PROPS, PUPPETS AND PATIENCE!

A 'storytime rug', or wearing a special item of clothing, could signal that it's storytime

Use an object to match the story (e.g. a teddy bear), or a puppet

If children aren't engaged, do action rhymes to 'de-wriggle them', or try again later

6. AFTER THE STORY...

Provide further opportunities for children to engage with the story through talking and play

Think about the session. Did it go well? What worked and what didn't?

Share storytelling ideas with colleagues – and find out more for yourself!

Written by Alec Williams in association with Communicate SLT CIC and Early Years and Childcare Team

ENJOY YOUR STORYTELLING!