

Storytelling Activity

Collective oral storytelling is a powerful tool for building “literacy” skills. When children are given the opportunity to participate in storytelling activities, they learn how stories are created, build vocabulary and see themselves as storytellers.

No physical books or words to read allow all children to feel comfortable participating.

Expect the unexpected! The story will be created in the moment, so everyone will need to stay focused and think creatively.

This activity can be done indoors, but outdoors is even better. The fresh air, sights, sounds and smells will boost creativity!

Instructions:

Collect small objects and place them in a bag. The more random and unusual the items are, the better the story. Sit in a circle and ask each child/student to reach into the bag and without looking take one item. Choose one person to start the story with one sentence or a few. The challenge is to use the item they selected from the bag as the focus for their part of the story. How does the item feel? What does it look like and does it smell? Encourage them to use descriptive words to enhance the story. Continue building the story as each person in the circle takes a turn. The last person in the circle will conclude the story.

Outdoor option!!

Give each child/student a few minutes to find an item. If it's small they can hold it in their hands. If it's large, they can just use their imagination. Don't forget to involve their senses. Their “item” can be a sound, smell or something they can see from a distance.

