

Story

Word Play

Have fun with the words you say. In the language(s) you use together, you could start rhyming words or think of words that start with the same sound. The sillier the better! Could we change words that we already know so that they sound strange? Try adding a made-up words into a story you tell - and make up a meaning.

the **biscrumdamous** monster
(meaning: VERY slimy)

Stories on the move

Go for a walk. What can you see, hear and smell? Where has that butterfly been today? What are they building at that building site? Could it be the tallest building in the world? Maybe it will have a magic lift that floats up to the top and down again? What if this bus could take up anywhere in the world - where would you choose to go? What lives in that hole in the tree? Is it friendly or scary?



Get Cosy

Grab some cushions or build a den with chairs and a sheet. Turn the lights down. Choose a book, pour a warm drink and cuddle up close. This story time will be extra special. The story itself is important but not as important as the engagement and interaction with your child.



Put on a show

Tell a story by acting out the parts. A sheet could be a cape, wear someone else's hat or shoes to be a different character. Can you change your voice? Or you could use small toys to be the characters in your story. Make tickets out of bits of paper and give them to your family to watch.



Stories are all about me!

Make up stories where your child is the main character. Base it on things you do every day. "Jamal got up, cleaned his teeth and had breakfast. Then he went for a walk with his Mum, but he was still wearing his pyjamas!" Add in silly things like asking a giraffe for directions or catching a boat at the bus stop. Or what would happen if you woke up one day and you could fly? Where would you go? What would you see?



Get Ready

- If you don't have many books at home, you could make a visit to your local library and choose some stories together.
- Try to remove distractions – put your phones away and turn off the TV – and get in the story telling zone!
- Let your child take the lead – they may need you to start them off, then you can notice when they are getting more confident.
- But don't be too ready! Leave room for the unexpected to happen.

Why Story?

Whatever stage or age your child is at, you can share stories. And stories are for grown-ups too!

You and your child can be playful, silly, funny, brave, terrifying, and AMAZING on your story adventures together.

The most important thing is to have fun. You will be creating memorable experiences that will help your child develop a life-long love of books and stories.



#ReclaimPlayfulness

Story Adaptations

Here are some ways you can adapt a story activity for a younger child, an older child, and a child with learning differences:

- Make your story shorter or longer. You start, or your child starts – or both!
- You might use different kinds of words - your story may have a beginning, middle and end. Using words like after, then, next, but... will help your child with the order that happens in a story.
- Adding the senses - tell a story about Gran and smell her jumper; tell one about a spiky dinosaur and feel the spiky end of a fork.
- Tell a massage story – this uses touch to help tell a simple story. You can find some online or tell your own.
- Will your child record their story - write it down, draw it, make a voice recording on your phone?

Story Starters

Here are some fun ways to kick start your story telling:

- Tell stories about yourselves and the people you know. Look at photos you've taken or have some items that help you talk about a special person.
- Is your child really interested in something? Superheroes, football, a TV show? You could both pretend to be a character from the show, or choose a superpower, or BE an amazing footballer. Get into your role - what happens next?
- Start with an object – pick up a stone on a walk, or maybe you found one sock in the wash, or see an interesting shaped cloud out of the window. What if that was a magic stone? What if the lonely sock went on a search for its perfect sock partner? What if that elephant-shaped cloud was actually an elephant?
- Listen to the sounds around you. Maybe you hear a plane, or a dog barking – who is on the plane? Is the dog looking for someone?