



Top tips for storytelling

Storytelling is a great way of engaging whole families and interpreting the themes of your collection for your youngest audience.

These are our top-tips for a successful storytelling session:

- Be creative – you don't have to stick to the storyline
- Repetition, repetition, repetition
- Think of a different action or activity to engage the children at each plot point of the story
- Don't use a book during the session
- Practice makes perfect
- Sing to your heart's content, it will encourage others to do the same
- Take time to organise your performance space – are things out of reach?
- If it doesn't already exist, create it, eg adapt a song or create your own prop
- If your story includes references to historical objects, let the audience touch them
- Make sure to bring the story to life by using a range of resources that include smell, touch, sight and sound
- Be prepared – have backup activities and resources and be adaptable
- Assess the group as they arrive – are they a younger or older group, will you need to start with a warming up exercise or an introduction to how the session works?

Early Years toolkit

- Things might not go to plan but just incorporate this into your story and remember, no one will know!
- If a child or a family wanders off – let them. This is normal behaviour for little children and doesn't imply disrespect for your performance!
- Decide how long your session will last. Our storytelling sessions last 30 minutes – a 20 minute story and 10 minutes for an activity or singing at the end
- It's OK to finish your story ahead of time – just have something to keep families entertained for the rest of the session eg games or songs.

