

Story Boxes – use props to bring stories alive

Learning aims

- Children listen to and join in with the story
- Children listen and respond to ideas expressed by others
- Children share their own thoughts and ideas
- Use 'talk' to connect ideas and explain what is happening



Resources

- A box (shoebox, computer paper box) decorated with coloured paper and question marks or popular story characters
- For each session, you will need to choose an object/prop to build your story around.

Activity Outline

- Gather the children together show them the box. Ask them to predict what may be inside
- Sing 'What's in the box, what's in the box, what will we find, what will we see, come and look with me, come and look with me'
- Open the box slowly and reveal the chosen story prop i.e. a shoe prop may begin like this: 'this small house is a very special house because it belonged to.....'
- Start the story and ask each child to then create the next part of the storyline/plot
- Go around the group asking each child to contribute their thoughts and ideas to the story
- Think about story structure and ensure you have a beginning, middle and end
- Identify the level of development of the group you are working with and look at the key language you wish to introduce.

Extending the activity

- Change the length and complexity of the story according to children's level of development
- Once children have understood how to use the story box then ask them to choose an object to go into the box and to lead the story
- Encourage children to bring in items from home that they can use as a story prop.