

Story Stones

As early years' practitioners, you have the fantastic privilege to share a passion and excitement for reading with the children you care for.

You can inspire them to develop a love of books and reading, and give them the skills they need for later reading and writing.

Resources

- Story Stones video (to the right)
- Selection of stones
- Various media to decorate the stones.

Activity Outline

Story stones can be used to tell and develop stories. They can be decorated using paints, stickers, pens, photographs or natural materials such as grass and sand to create textures. The story stones can be used in a range of ways with the children:

- **Group storytelling**
Sit together with all of the stones in view to tell the story or hide the print face of the stones and turn them over as the story progresses to introduce new characters and events.
- **Individual story stone activities**
Place your story stones on a 'create a story' table with small world people, animals, playdough and music or musical instruments for children to explore the objects and to create their own stories.
- **Partnerships with parents**
Create story stone bags and send them home with children or provide story stone kits for parents, so that they can create 'family stories' or 'favourite celebration stories' which the child can re-tell in the setting.
- **Experienced storytellers**
Ask each child to choose a stone out of the bag. Each child has to weave their chosen stone character/event into the story narrative.
- **Inviting parents to the setting**
Invite parents and family members into the setting to share the children's favourite stories.