

## Bring books alive

How do you bring your favourite books alive for the children in your setting?

Get creative - read, use puppets and other story props, write, draw, mark make, dress up... there are lots of different ways to make the stories you and the children love even more fun!

### Learning aims

- For children and adults to read and enjoy their favourite book together
- For key people to think about how to make the book come alive and to help children learn all they can from their current interest or favourite book
- This activity will support children's development in the areas of Communication and Language, Literacy and may cover other areas and aspects of the EYFS depending on which book you choose.



### Resources

This would depend on exactly which book you choose to focus on:

- Copies of the book (sometimes there are larger copies of the book available for you to use and then the children can follow the story in the usual sized book)
- Puppets, story stones, masks or toys dissipated the characters in the story

## Activity Outline

- Can the children come dressed up in characters from the book, or can you have dress up clothes in the setting for them to use?
- Can you create an area in your setting for the children to role play the story (for example a woodland or forest depending where the story is set)?
- Provide cardboard boxes and other resources for the children to make houses, dens, tunnels, caves (etc.) that are described in the book
- What other resources would help? Perhaps torches, clip boards, other props?
- Are there any themes in your book to extend upon? For example, rhyming, opposites, numbers, sequencing or alliteration
- If the book is about a superhero, aliens, space ships etc. can you make your own? Talk about what they would look like or what would they be called. Would they have any special powers?
- Make a large image of the main character(s) of the story. Can you then help children to label parts of their body or describe features such as their 'spotted t-shirt', 'green eyes' etc.?
- Will the story extend into a baking, food tasting, planting or creative experience such as modelling (boxes, tubes, play dough, clay etc.), painting (mixing paints to make a certain colour or shade) or mark making?
- Can you move like the character in the story – for example 'giant footsteps' or 'move like a mouse'?
- Are there any songs or rhymes connected with the story – if not can you make one up?
- How can you extend this story for learning opportunities outside? For example, visiting a woodland or forest or role playing the story in your outdoors area?
- Are there any seasons, animals, foods or job roles that you could explore further in the story?

## Links to home learning

- Do you have a book lending library, or can you encourage parents to borrow a copy from their local library?
- Are there YouTube (or similar) videos of the story - or songs that you are singing connected with the story - that you can share with parents?
- Can you send finger puppets, puppets, story stones or a story sack home so that parents can read the story to their child – or perhaps the child can tell the story to their family?
- Is there a favourite book enjoyed by the child and their family at home that they could share with you?

## Working with babies

It is never too early to share books with babies. Talking about the pictures, patterns and colours etc. give chances for snuggly times and for babies to see your mouth move and listen to the sounds you are making. Some parents may need you to model this, give them ideas and some support and encouragement. Do you have appropriate age and stage information to share with all parents and carers to help them support children's development at home?