

Exploring fairy tales through role-play

When reading fairy tales with your children, why not take it one step further and involve the children in re-enacting some of their favourite tales?

Learning aims

- Listen to a selection of favourite fairy tales
- Be imaginative and act out stories through role-play
- Develop an understanding of what a performance is and enjoy watching peers.



Resources

- A selection of fairy tale stories to support re-enacting the tales through role-play, for example:
 - Three Little Pigs: three pigs and a wolf small world animals and blocks, straw and sticks
 - Billy Goats Gruff: something to make a bridge and three sets of ears/horns
 - Goldilocks: three teddy bears and a doll, bowls, chairs and cushions, blankets to make beds
- Red Riding Hood: A red cloak, basket, wolf ears and material for granny
- Gingerbread Man: playdough or gingerbread, cutters, small world people, animals and a fox
- Paper, pencils
- Recording device.

Activity Outline

1. Begin by reading a favourite fairy tale
2. Then depending on the age and stage of the children, you could either extend the story further by re-enacting the story using small world play and encouraging the children to join in, or for pre-school children you could invite them to act out the story and perhaps put on a performance for their peers
3. Together use pencils and paper and encourage them to make marks about which character they would like to be and what they would like to say
4. Look around the nursery for material and props to help support their characters and set
5. Look at online videos about real plays and performances
6. Rehearse the play and share key words and vocabulary used in theatres, for example, 'curtain up', 'set', 'script', 'audience'
7. Act out the play in front of others in the setting. Extend this further by making tickets and a stage
8. Once they have performed a fairy tale, see if they can work together to make up a new story to act out from their imaginations
9. With permission, make and share recordings with parent/carers too

Special considerations

Risk assess any outings. Usually chalk will just wash away in the rain so there shouldn't be any concerns for using this in public but maybe double check if unsure.

Ensure you have permission from parent for taking/displaying/sharing any photos of children.