

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Storytelling workshop with parents

Learning aims

- Develop a love of storytelling and reading as a family
- Listen to familiar stories with increasing attention
- Use language to connect ideas, explain what is happening and predict events
- Repeat and use actions, words or phrases from familiar stories.



Resources

- Effective storytelling prompts for parents (see below)
- [The Gingerbread Man - retold by Sue Arengo](#)
- Story props – a gingerbread man, woman, man, cow, horse and fox
- A range of books – storybooks, non-fiction and poetry and supporting props (where available).

Activity outline

Preparation

1. Print off the story of The Gingerbread Man, retold by Sue Arengo
2. Create props of the characters in the story using real objects or paper cut-outs
3. Read the story a few times before you read it to the children, so you are confident about how the story develops and you can identify the different characters and voices you can use
4. Create a list of effective storytelling prompts for parents (see below).

Activity

1. Invite parents into the setting for a storytelling workshop. The first part of the workshop will involve staff talking to parents about the importance of sharing stories with and reading to their children. The National Literacy Trust 2020 reports the astonishing benefits of sharing stories with children: comfort and reassurance, confidence and security, relaxation, happiness and fun, builds self-esteem, vocabulary, feeds imagination and even improves their sleeping patterns when part of a bedtime routine
2. Share with parents some effective storytelling prompts, which will help to engage children in stories and make them fun and enjoyable for the whole family. Here are some key points you can share:

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- Use your voice and tone to set the scene and create an atmosphere
 - Build anticipation and introduce surprises
 - Use facial expressions
 - Use your whole body to tell the story
 - Vary the pace, speed and volume as appropriate
 - Use your voice to develop individual characters and introduce sounds
 - Use props to make the story come to life
 - Encourage children to join in with repeated phrases or ideas
 - Add pauses into your story so that children fill in the missing word or phrase
 - Relax and enjoy storytelling
 - When you are familiar with the story, retell it without the book.
3. The second part of the workshop will be modelling storytelling to children so parents can observe and develop their storytelling skills and confidence
 4. Read the story of *The Gingerbread Man* to the children using all of the effective storytelling techniques you have shared with parents. For example, use props to make the story come to life and encourage children to join in when the Gingerbread Man says, *'Run, Run! You can run. Yes, you can! But you can't catch me. I'm the Gingerbread Man!'*
 5. Finally, invite parents to access the collection of books and supporting props and to spend some time reading with the children. They could read one to one with their own child or to a small group of children, if they feel confident to do so
 5. Encourage parents to read to their child regularly at home and to use the effective storytelling techniques.

Extending the activity

- Continue to enjoy the story of *The Gingerbread Man* and extend this by providing children with resources to make their own props or salt dough gingerbread men
- Provide paper and mark-making resources for children to recreate stories
- Invite parents in for regular storytelling sessions giving them the opportunity to lead on storytelling if they wish.

NDNA products to support you with this activity

- [Online course: Vocabulary and Early Language Skills](#)
- [Publication: Developing Literacy Superheroes.](#)