



## ★ Early Years Home Learning ★

### Communication and Language Story Baskets



This is best:



Indoors

#### Materials

You may need:

- A box, bag, or basket
- Items/toys from around the house
- A favourite story book (if you don't have the book you could watch the story on YouTube)

**The basic idea:** To gather or create a collection of household items that can be used to re-tell a story. This can be based on a favourite book. Use objects from around the house that fit in with the plot and characters (e.g. use a box for a house, doll for Red Riding Hood). Explore the objects together and use them to act out the story. They can be kept in a basket, bag, or box, use whatever you have at home. The story basket can be changed to tell different stories by changing some of the objects. You could also make up your own stories... these may turn out to be your child's favourites!

#### Tips to support your child:

- You could start off with a story that is well-known to you and your child, this will make it easier for them to talk about the objects and retell it. Try to use lots of language to describe the objects (e.g. the big bad wolf is horrible, nasty, mean, scary, frightening etc.), talk about the different events of the story and the characters. Use different voices for the characters to make it fun. You could then introduce a new story, and once you have read it together, create a story basket to retell the story.
- If you can't find a certain character or animal, you could try drawing a simple picture on paper, card or even use markers or paints to draw on a stone. You could stick to traditional stories or switch up the characters from different stories to have the three little pigs chasing the gingerbread man!
- Revisit this experience to build on your child's stories! Helping your child to think and remember are important skills for learning!

#### How this benefits your child:

- Stories involve lots of different language. Using different words will develop vocabulary and understanding of what words mean. This will happen by using descriptive words when talking about the story and characters.
- Repeating words by retelling the same story will also help children learn to say things properly and be able to use the word correctly.
- Retelling a story also develops memory skills and develops skills to help predict what might happen next. Taking on the role of a character can begin to develop understanding of other's feelings and emotions.

#### Make this simpler...

Enjoy reading simple stories with your child. If you don't have a book at home, you could find the story on YouTube and watch it together.

#### Make this more challenging...

Ask your child if they can come up with a different ending to the story. Can they draw this on a piece of paper? You could scribe (write) their ending for them.

"The fun is in the journey,  
not the end result!"



#### Top Tip from our Speech and Language Therapy partners:

**Being face to face with your child helps them develop their interaction and Communication skills.** To help develop their language skills talk about the beginning, middle and end, either in stories or daily conversations.

