

Activity 2 – Reading and sharing books

Make and use a story sack/box

What to do

- Choose a simple picture book which you will both enjoy reading.
- Share the book enjoying the story and discussing the different events.
- Collect or make props together to present parts of the story to help to retell it. You don't have to have everything represented – just the key elements and nothing needs to be perfect! They are just prompts.
The making can be spread over a few days – it should feel like fun.
- Once you have made and/or assembled the props, take turns to tell the story with the props.

Example story sack contents:

Room on the Broom by Julia Donaldson

Toy wand, ribbon tied in a bow, fancy dress witch hat, broomstick made from a lolly stick and paper fringe stuck on one end. Characters drawn on card, coloured, cut out and stuck on lolly sticks: witch, cat, dog, bird, frog, dragon.

Extension

Choose a character and talk about them. Give them advice, make them a present, design a new outfit for them etc.

Retell the story but make some changes – a different ending, different character etc. This can be done physically by swapping props before the telling.

Make up conversations between the story characters.

What you need

- An engaging picture book
- Objects/images that can be used to retell the story (paper, card, pens, lolly sticks, scissors and tape for making props)
- A bag or box to keep everything in



Questions to ask

What happens at the beginning/next/at the end of the story? Can we remember how the story starts/ends?

Which characters are in the story?

What other things can we make or find to show what happens in the story?

Can we tell the story using the sack objects?

What if we changed...?

What advice would you give the witch?