

Story Boxes

Sharing traditional and familiar stories through retelling and small play to promote a love of reading and to support the development of language and communication skills.

Method

- Inside a shoebox create a stage, complete with characters and props for a traditional or familiar story.
- Read through the story before you introduce the story box to a child.
- If this is the first time that you will be sharing the story together, allow the child to explore the items in the box. Let the child's questions/gestures about the objects guide your discussion. Introduce the characters, if applicable.
- Use the objects as you tell and re-enact the story.
- Story boxes are also a great tool to support children to retell a story themselves, both through acting it out and using words.
- Retelling the story also gives the opportunity to increase the vocabulary you use, providing more details and or introducing synonyms for words eg instead of saying "the chair broke", you could say "the chair shattered".
- As a child becomes familiar with a story you may want to make slight changes to it eg perhaps it could be the 'Three Trolls and the Billy Goats gruff'. This is a great way to develop imagination
- Duplicating a story box provides an opportunity for intensive interactions through parallel play, where you play with the story boxes alongside each other, and you copy the play and vocalisations of the child. This can help develop a child to develop joint attention.



A Billy Goats Gruff story box created at Randolph Beresford Children's Centre.

