

ACTIVE STORYTELLING

Literacy — KS1, KS2

Resources: Children can make props from classroom or natural materials

ACT OUT A FAVOURITE STORY

Use the outdoor space for drama as children enact a story, with full sound and movement. Children or teacher could narrate or children could work from memory. As an alternative, challenge the children to come up with alternative endings to classics.

SOUND EFFECTS

Make sound effects from objects, your body or natural materials to accompany a story. Different children can be responsible for different sounds. ‘We’re Going on a Bear Hunt’ and ‘The Billy Goats Gruff’ are good candidates for younger children. Discuss the sounds together.

MINIATURE WORLD

Use the outdoor environment as the setting for story play and make use of natural resources to stimulate creativity. Could a leaf be a blanket and a pebble a chair, for example? There will be plenty of space for children to immerse themselves in their world.



IMAGINATION CIRCLE

Each child collects or locates a natural item. Create a wide spaced circle. Ask each child to imagine what their item could be in make believe e.g. “that [tree] is a big dark cave for a bear” “This [rock] is a dinosaur bone”.

For older children, you can make up a shared story using the items. Each child adds to the story, using their item (they can work out what they pretend it to be as they go along). E.g. Child 1: “This [tree] is a mountain, where a giant lives” Child 2: “She likes to eat rock porridge for breakfast” [holds out pebbles].

For a higher challenge, ask children to come up with different imaginary alternatives for the same item e.g. Child 1: “This [leaf] is a blanket for a fairy”. Child 2: “This [leaf] is a boat for an ant to cross the ocean”



Bringing nature nearer