

B B C
CBeebies
PARENTING

Make Storytime Magic



Activity Ideas

In this booklet you'll find a selection of activities to help you have fun making storytime magic with your little one. Each idea links to the BBC CBeebies Parenting website where you can watch how to do the activities together and find out how they can help develop your little one's speech and language skills.

1

You don't always need a book to share stories

Create stories about what your little one can see in their world around them.



2

How you tell a story...

is as important as the story itself. Use different voices and add sound effects. Have fun!



3

Puppet time fun!

Making sock puppets can be a great way to bring stories and characters to life



4

Making up stories...

can help little ones develop their attention skills, learn new words and build imagination.



5

Retelling stories together...

can help build your child's vocabulary and memory skills. Read a story book together then ask your little one to retell the story in their own words.



Have fun making storytime magic with your little one!

BBC CBeebies PARENTING

You don't always need a book to share stories

Create stories about what your little one can see in their world around them.

When you take your child on a walk, talk about the things you can see.

Watch your little one and notice what they're looking at, then name it and add extra information to build short sentences e.g. 'It's a bird. The bird is sitting in the tree.'

When you get home see if your little one can remember what they saw and tell you a story about their day.

Scan the QR code to watch the activity 'The Name Game'



TOP TIPS

When your child is a little bit older, try folding 2 sheets of paper to make a simple book. Talk about the things you saw on your walk.

Draw a simple picture of each thing on one page at a time, your little one can join in too. Talk through the picture book together as a way of recounting your journey.





2



How you tell a story...

is as important as the story itself.
Have fun!

Use different voices and sound effects to keep your child's attention and help them understand new words.

Try adding sounds for things that characters are doing, like 'yawning' for going to sleep or say 'beep, beep' for getting on a bus!

Bring animals to life in a story by adding different animal sounds.

All these things can help children to focus and remember what happens in the story.

Scan the QR code
to watch the activity
'Add sound effects
to a story'



TOP TIPS

Encourage older children to think about how different characters are feeling; are they excited at a party or sleepy at the end of a long day? Try asking this at the beginning, middle and end of the story.

Puppet time fun!

Making sock puppets can be a great way to bring stories and characters to life.

Place a sock over your hand to create a simple puppet and give it a name. You could add eyes and a nose to bring your character to life.

Read your child's favourite book together and ask your puppet simple yes/no questions as you tell the story, they can shake and nod their head to answer!

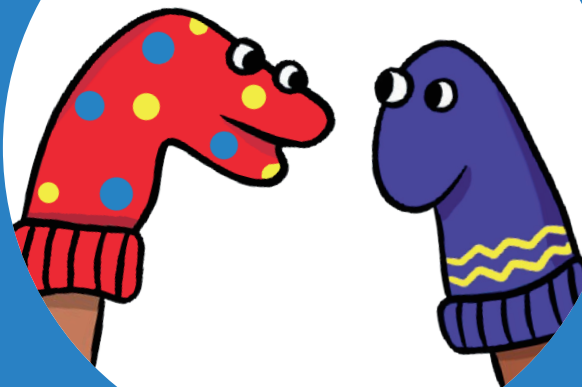
Questions to ask your Puppet

- What do you like to do? Play/sing/dance
- What can you see? Animals/people/trees/flowers
- How do you feel? Happy/excited/surprised

Scan the QR code to watch the activity 'Playing with sock puppets'



3



TOP TIPS

When your child is a bit older, you could ask the puppet about the characters in the book, e.g. 'What do you think they will do next?' Pretend the puppet is talking to you, be as imaginative as you like.

Remember to pause to let your child join in, they might want to ask the puppet their own questions.

4



Making up stories...

can help little ones develop their attention skills, learn new words and build imagination.

Try using your child's favourite toys, or objects they find interesting, to help them create an imaginative story.

Ask questions like

- Where should we take Teddy on a picnic?
- How shall we get there?
- What does Teddy like to eat?

Include things your little one likes to do when you ask questions, e.g. **does Teddy like to ride on a bike/bus/ train?**

Scan the QR code
to watch the activity
'Storytime:
making up stories'



TOP TIPS

Basing your questions on familiar things is a good idea.
You could try including things from your everyday life e.g. where does Teddy like to go with their friends?

Retelling stories together...

can help build your child's vocabulary and memory skills.

Let your child choose their favourite story and read it together.

Ask them to retell you the story, you could do this after each page.

Giving your little one time to retell the story can help improve their memory and help them to use words and sentences in the past tense.

Ask open questions using 'who', 'what' and 'why'

This will encourage them to use more words and develop their understanding.

Ask questions like

- Who went to the seaside?
- What happened to Teddy?
- Why were they wet?



Scan the QR code
to watch the activity
'Retelling stories
together'



TOP TIPS

Ask older children questions beyond the story e.g. ask them how they would feel if something that happened in the story had happened to them.

There is no right or wrong way to practise retelling a story and it's a great way for your child to hear lots of words and sentences.

BBC CBeebies PARENTING

Here when you need us.
Supporting families from day one to the first day of school,
with trusted expert advice and free, fun activity ideas.



Keep making storytime magic with your little ones
by scanning the QR code and visiting our website

bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/parenting

