Story Stones

Overview

Natural materials are a unique tool to explore speech and language. Small pebbles are a tactile resource which can encourage children to explore storytelling.



Activities

Model how to use the story stones. A child selects a stone from the bag and lays it out in the middle so everyone can see it. Repeat the phrase, 'Once upon a time there was a…' and add the first item. Ask simple questions to clarify the direction the child chooses to take the story, 'Is it a good dragon?' etc... Each child takes a stone in turn and adds to the overall story. Repeat the story and add to the sequence. Finish with, 'And they all lived happily ever after'.

Equipment

- Drawstring feely bag for pebbles
- comfortable surface for sitting
- Story stones, use small, rounded pebbles. Draw or paint characters, objects, settings to suit and varnish with PVA glue.

Key Questions

How do all good stories start?
Once upon a time there was a…'
...And then?
What happened next?

The Benefits

- Literacy - To understand that a story has a beginning, a middle and an end.
- Play - To develop imagination and confidence in telling stories.

Progression in Learning

- Encourage silliness, leaps of imagination, and good-natured fun. There might be an alien under the troll bridge or a wolf that needs rescuing.
- Say, 'And then…' to introduce each new element. Point at the stones to sequence the story and encourage children to re-tell the story with you.