What Happens Next?

Overview

Nature provides a rich environment to explore speech and language. Pairing this with stories creates an exciting opportunity to introduce new contexts and vocabulary.



Activities

Stories are great for introducing nature to children and outdoor story experiences can enhance reading for pleasure. Create a cosy corner for reading together outdoors. Think about shade and shelter to provide comfort on hot, wet or windy days and add a picnic rug, blanket or even a hammock. Think about the settings of stories and try to read books in their context. The Gruffalo comes to life in a whole new way when read under a tree or in a local woodland.

Equipment

Some outdoor classics:

- 'Not a Stick' by Antoinette Portis
- 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle
- 'The Owl Babies' by Martin Waddell
- 'Puddling' by Emma Perry.

Key Questions

Who is this?
Where are they?
What do you think will happen next?
(At page turns, but also at the end of a familiar story.)

The Benefits

- Play – Choosing, relaxing, reflection and role play.
- Literacy – Talking, listening, sequencing, predicting.

Progression in Learning

- Use natural materials to create transient art pictures of characters or recreate scenes from your stories.
- Introduce new stories regularly to keep children's interest.