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Do you have daily storytime with a classroom of kids?Do you run story time at your library?Do you just enjoy reading stories and doing book inspired activities and songs with your child?If you answered YES to any of these questions then these ideas are for you!Our Story Time posts all include 3 things:High Quality Picture Book Selections that are great for Reading AloudRelated Childrens SongsActivity Ideas to do during or after story timeHere are some popular story times to get you started:Winter Storytimes for PreschoolersWhen Winter arrives with its holiday fun and chilly weather it is the perfect time to cozy up for a story time. Here are 12 perfect storytime ideas for Winter.Christmas Themes > 8+ Joyful Christmas Story TimesValentines Day > Valentines Day Story Time for ToddlersFind all 13 Winter Themes > Winter Story Time ThemesClick Here to get the Winter Clothing Printables > Winter Clothing Activity PackSpring Storytimes for PreschoolersSpring is always a season of renewed hope and life. Baby animals, cheerful flowers, green grass these are the things I think of when I think of summer. Here are delightful story time ideas for Spring.Find all 12 Spring Themes > Spring Story Time ThemesClick Here to get the Spring Writing Printables > Spring Writing Prompts PackSummer Storytimes for PreschoolersWe love summer for its time at the beach and the pool and also for the free time to explore topics that have intrigued us the rest of the year. Here are some fun, playful story time ideas for Summer.Find all 10 Summer Themes > Summer Story Time ThemesFall Storytimes for PreschoolersThis is a whole packet of Fall themed Storytime complete with picture book lists, song ideas, and activities for 12 weeks of Fall.12 Fall Themes > Fall Story Time ThemesFall Hike Storytime > Fall Hike StorytimeElection Storytime > Election Day StorytimeHalloween Storytimes > Ultimate Halloween Story Time ResourceClick Here to get the Packet > Fall Story Time PackStorytimes for Any TimeFor Babies and ToddlersLittle Excavator Big and Little Story Time for ToddlersOpposites Storytime for Babies & ToddlersShapes Story Time for ToddlersFor PreschoolersAnimal Themed Booklists, Storytimes and ActivitiesAntarctica Storytime for KidsBad Day StorytimeCozy Storytime for Toddlers & PreschoolersDragon Storytime for PreschoolersFamilies Preschool Story TimeGet Well Story TimeCluck Cluck Chickens StorytimeCurly Hair, Big Hair, Hair Everywhere StorytimeHome Sweet Home StorytimeMoon Storytime for PreschoolersPizza Party StorytimeSeasons Storytime for Any Time of the YearSly Fox Story Time for Toddlers & PreschoolersStars and Outer Space Story TimeTap the Magic Tree Inspired Storytime with Movement ActivityGlittery, Sparkly Unicorn Storytime for PreschoolersWomen in Space Storytime with Extension IdeasWaiting is Hard StorytimeFor School AgeWomens History Month Storytime and Activity IdeasClick for ALL Storytime Ideas animal hand printsdear zoo ByLouisia | Mum's Creative Cupboard April 28, 2020 April 23, 2020 April 21, 2020 I enjoy babytime. And I can handle preschool storytime. But toddler storytime is my absolute favourite! Maybe its because I hang out with a 2-year-old on a regular basis, but I love the controlled chaos that often characterizes this group.Ive just wrapped up my first session of a 12-week toddler storytime (ages 18 months-3 years), and I thought it would be helpful to share what worked with these ages. Ill be doing a series of blog posts over the next month on the following topics:So lets get to it!How I PlanMy most successful toddler storytimes include the following ingredients:Flexibility + Repetition + Movement + Caregiver Participation = A Good Time For AllBooks are important too, but Ive found that these other elements are more influential in determining how a storytime will pan out. In order to get caregivers to participate, I always give out a bookmark with the song lyrics printed. Especially if its a big group, having the parents and caregivers on board can make a world of difference.I plan for a range of activities and end up using the ones that work well the kids on that day at that time. With that said, I plan for a 30-minute program (my library doesnt do crafts as part of storytime) with the following components in mind:1-2 books (depending on how active they are)1 flannel story1 song or rhyme with puppets5-6 songs or rhymes5-6 get the wiggles out activities (anything from lifting songs to egg shakers to dancing)I will go into more detail about each of these components in my following blog posts. Suffice it to say, when I first started doing Toddler Storytimes, I would try to plan out the order of all these different components. While some of the planning was good (i.e. which book to read first), most of it fell apart during storytime because the kids needed something different. So halfway through my session, I created a planning sheet that allows me to organize my thoughts, but also allows for a great deal of flexibility. Ive included it here in case anyone would like to print and use it too. Its pretty simple in its design, but thats why I like it!Toddler Storytime Planning Sheet (Word Document) Toddler Storytime Planning Sheet (PDF)So now I have a basic idea of the types of activities Id like to share for each session, and I let the group of kids determine what I use and what I dont. I may not always use a felt story and puppets, but the toddlers who come to my library absolutely love them so I make an effort to include them as often as possible.After each storytime Ill make little notes in each box regarding what worked and what didnt. Then the planning sheet goes in my Storytime Madness binder, making it easy to flip through when Ive forgotten which books Ive read or what songs worked really well.These past three months were my first time doing a complete full run of toddler storytime with the same community, so I anticipate the way I plan to change in the future. But for now, this is what is working for me!How do you plan your Toddler Storytime? Please share your successes in the comments! Here is a collection of 12 fun and playful ways to bring stories to life with creative storytelling activities! From play dough and story sensory bins to small world play and dramatic retelling, there are lots of ideas here to choose from and keep little ones busy in playful learning.Keeping early literacy fun and playful is essential. Too much pressure to read and write can be intimidating and plenty of young children get turned off learning very early in life because theyre forced into it too soon. The foundations of good literacy skills lie in comprehension and language skills, which are fostered best through listening to stories and retelling them in a fun way. We often like to take a well-loved story book or traditional tale and find ways to retell it in an active, playful and hands on way. Research shows that this is the best way to consolidate learning and to raise confident readers and writers in later life.Try some today and then pin the post to have a go at the others in future weeks! Enjoy.The Gruffalo Play Dough Story tellingThe Very Hungry Caterpillar Sensory BinThe Very Hungry Caterpillar Play Dough Story tellingJack and the Beanstalk Story BoxFairytale Storytelling BasketLittle Red Riding Hood Story BoxLittle Red Riding Hood dramatic playPorridge Oats play Dough Story RetellingGoldilocks dramatic play story retellingStorytelling in a Giant Cardboard BoxMagical Fairy Garden Storytelling PromptPirate Island Story Prompts See all our other Playful Literacy ideas hereFind our Playful Literacy board here on Pinterest Storytelling is a wonderful way to improve language skills, ignite the imagination, improve concentration, and sharpen memory. This collection of inventive storytelling games for kids includes cooperative, card-based, and creative writing games for hours of learning fun. Theres no better way to hone the art of storytelling than to emulate the structure of classic fairytales. Fairytales are one of the most popular and oldest storytelling genres and this collection of printable cards makes it fun and easy for kids to create their own. Age Group: Elementary Learn More: Sunny Day Family These printables make for a wonderful immersive storytelling game. Kids are challenged to incorporate as many of the images into their stories as possible. Age Group: Elementary Learn More: The Colorful Apple Students use the pictures from each of the Who, What, When, Where, and Why? spinners to create a compelling story. This activity is also a wonderful way to develop creative thinking skills. Age Group: Elementary Learn More: Twinkl Providing students with written prompts encourages them to use their critical thinking skills to tell a cohesive story. Combined with simple instructions, these story starter ideas make an excellent choice for a family game night. Age Group: Elementary Learn More: The Colorful Apple This Story Time game is sized like a double deck of cards, making it a convenient choice for travel. The bright-colored pictures also help players develop imaginative thinking skills. Age Group: Elementary Learn More: Amazon This fantastic game features good and bad fairy-tale characters, settings, and props to encourage kids creative imagination. Age Group: Elementary Learn More: Twinkl This inclusive storytelling game comes with twenty double-sided picture cards to stimulate kids imaginations and develop their story sequencing skills. Age Group: Elementary Learn More: Amazon This cooperative game with simple instructions is an excellent choice for developing improvisation skills in drama class. Age Group: Elementary Learn More: Silly Fish Learning This engaging game encourages young learners to use their creativity to come up with elaborate and compelling stories by piecing together a series of picture cards. Age Group: Elementary Learn More: This elaborate storytelling board game features a detailed world map game board and colorful game pieces to bring the Tales of the Arabian Nights to life. Age Group: Middle School, Highschool Learn More: Board Game Geek This collection of containers with various objects is a great way to encourage growth in creativity. Kids are sure to have tons of fun picking out unique props to enhance their stories. Age Group: Elementary Learn More: Thorp Public Library This creative storytelling game is sure to bring out the inner detective in your young learners as they uncover the motives of suspects by examining a series of clues. Age Group: Middle School, Highschool Learn More: Hunt A Killer In this simple storytelling game, kids tell a collective story by using their chosen toys and objects as inspiration. Age Group: Elementary Learn More: Home Literacy Blueprint Sensory play is a great way to bring this popular kids story to life while developing sequencing and creative thinking skills. Age Group: Preschool, Elementary Learn More: The Imagination Tree Why not combine puppets and music to bring classic stories to life? This collection of musical storytelling ideas is a great way to build oral communication skills while having a fantastic time! Age Group: Elementary Learn More: Lets Play Kids Music Why not paint some stones with pictures of colorful characters, objects, and animals to encourage hands-on creative storytelling? Age Group: Preschool, Elementary Learn More: Happy Hooligans These adorable paper building and character props are a great way to create an immersive and imaginative world. Why not get kids to write out their ideas for extra storytelling practice? Age Group: Elementary Learn More: Made By Joel These storytelling spoons can be adapted for a story of your choice and are a wonderful way to develop early literacy skills while encouraging kids to retell their favorite stories. Age Group: Preschool, Elementary Learn More: The Imagination Tree Why not use some vibrant crafts to bring a classic story to life? This is a great way to develop early literacy skills for preschoolers who are not yet reading independently. Age Group: Preschool Learn More: Craft Learn And Play Three Billy Goats Gruff Book is the inspiration for this hands-on STEM challenge. By building a bridge like the characters in the book, kids are able to recall the sequence and details of the story with greater ease. Age Group: Elementary Learn More: Fairy Dust TeachingIf youre looking for storytimes by theme, check out our list below or visit our Pinterest boards.Caregivers on Devices at StorytimeKids Tearing Down Felts Hill We're Dana and Lindsey, two children's librarians ready to take on storytime. Jbrary is a library of storytime resources for those of us working with children. Join us for songs, rhymes, fingerplays, and more! Learn more... Slow the pace down in the holidays with some reading and storytime activities. Find ideas about how to get started in our 7 great reading and story time activities article.School holidays are a great time to make reading fun, especially if youre cooped up inside on a rainy day. This article offers plenty of story time indoor activities to get you started, and most can be adapted to suit any age and stage. The best bit is, both book lovers and book avoiders will want to join in. It all began once upon a time1. Story SackA story sack is such a fun way to find story time topics and to tell stories, and you can do it with one child or the whole family.Fill a sack or bag with all sorts of toys and props, then sit down together and get ready to tell your story. The first storyteller begins by pulling a prop out of the bag, and starts the story based around that prop. At a crucial moment the first storyteller stops, and passes the story sack to the next player. They then pull a prop out of the bag, and continue the story using that prop as a guide. The story gets funnier and funnier as your children start weaving all sorts of strange props into their tale.If you are using the story sack with very young children, you could stay the storyteller, but give each child a chance to pull out the next prop.2. Invite Over a StorytellerProfessional storytellers put on an amazing show and really can instill a love of stories in your child. Granted, it may seem a little extravagant to hire a storyteller just for the fun of it, but you could organise a get-together with other families and really make it a big event.All you need is a big enough room and an audience, and the storyteller takes care of everything else. Each family could pitch in a few dollars to cover the cost, and maybe bring a plate for a shared lunch after the show.To find a storyteller in your area, try searching forChildrens Entertainment in aGoogle search, or contact your local arts council.3. Giant BooksMaking a giant book is an activity that can be done in a day, or brought out to work on whenever you need to fill in some time. Give your child several sheets of poster card to make the pages of their book, and either print out the words from one of their favourite stories, or ask them to write their own. Your child can then illustrate the book by drawing their own pictures or cutting and pasting photos from magazines.If you have more than one child, they could each make their own book, or you could combine them all to make a book of family stories. Once the book is complete, they'll be excited to show (and read) their giant book to family and friends.4. Choose Your Own Adventure CardsThese cards work in a similar way to the story sack, and stories end up very funny. Start by cutting out playing cards from heavy card, and then write on them a whole heap of words, sentences, and part sentences. You will need to make sure you have plenty of high usage words like it, and, this, that, and but, and you will also need a good scattering of verbs (doing words), nouns (things), and adjectives (describing words). The more words and sentences you write out, the easier and more fun the game becomes.Start by shuffling the cards and distributing them to all the players. One player starts by putting down a word or sentence, and then each player adds to it in turn using the cards that they have. There are no winners or losers, this is simply a way to create silly stories with the whole family, and develop reading skills at the same time.5. Put on a Puppet ShowPuppets are a great way to encourage storytelling. The kids can either write their own show, or adapt one of their favourite stories. Set up a puppet theatre behind the couch or pin an old sheet across a doorway, so they can poke the puppets up over the top.If you want to get really creative you can make your own puppets from cardboard tubes, socks or paper bags, or check out educational toy stores for an awesome range of puppets that will really make your child smile.6. Put on a PlayEvery family has a drama queen (or king as the case may be), and putting on a play gives them a chance to catch their 5 minutes of fame. There are some great childrens scripts on the internet, or have your child make up their own play.To really make the most of it, spend some time traipsing around second hand shops to gather costumes, and make up tickets and programmes for friends and family. Writing, rehearsing, preparing and performing the play, should take up the entire holiday break!7. Join the LibraryLocal libraries usually offer some great events and activities during the holidays, so its definitely worth checking out. Giving your child their very own library card makes them feel important, and having free ranges with all those books can be quite exciting for young children.The easiest way to instill a love of books in your child, is to love books yourself. So these holidays, put your feet up and enjoy a good book. The more your children see you read, the more they will read themselves.CoolwebsiteAnyquestions group, briefly go over expectations.Sing shout\*Hello song, then introduce myself and say hello to all the kids by name (I generally average 5-10, rarely more than 12. I would not try that with a large group.)Warm-Up Song- Something with a little movement.Shaker Eggs/Scarves - With 2 songs or rhymes. I alternate; eggs one month, scarves the next usually. If doing scarves, I have them pick one up as they enter, if doing eggs I pass those out when we're ready to use them. I take things up afterward, before moving on, but I also tell parents it's not worth causing a meltdown if their child really doesn't want to part with them.Lead-in song - I use "If You're Ready for a Story"Read book - very short and simple!Song/rhymeOn a very rare occasion, might attempt a second, very short book here:Bubbles!Sing "Ten Little Bubbles" count up, then blow bubbles to pop, then sing again counting down. Bubbles are not only fun, but encourage tracking and reaching across midline. (Letting kids blow bubbles also works their oral musculature for speech, but that's best left as a home activity. I use a bubble machine or gun; no blowing in a group to reduce germ spread.)Good-bye song- first explain that there are optional activities after, but we're going to go ahead and sing our "Good-bye" song in case we don't get a chance to say good-bye to all of our friends later.Activities- usually 2 or 3 plus other toys, if larger group add more. I try to keep them developmentally appropriate, play-centered, and working on some developmental skill. Sometimes do a craft, but not often for this age as its still developmentally appropriate. Some examples: Sensory bin, they LOVE this! I use a base such as water, sand, kinetic sand, shredded paper, rice, or water beads with manipulatives added (plastic animals, gold coins & jewels, figures, boats, ducks, measuring cups & spoons, fishing set, etc.)Sensory tubes & balls (always put these out!)Paper & crayons!Play dough - great pre-writing activity! Rolling and smooching dough strengthens little hands and fingers.Dot painting - they loved these at first, but have gotten a little bored with it, so use infrequently!Play food/counting & Sorting manipulativesBuilding sets (foam blocks, straw builders, bristle blocks, etc.)Toy cars & construction vehicles with activity matsFlannel sets on large flannel boardMagnetic gearsMagnetic letters/Plastic animalsPuppets & Finger puppetsThe storytime part lasts about 20-25 minutes and I do sometimes deviate from the above plan by throwing in an extra short song or rhyme or on rare occasions getting in a second book, and sometimes cutting it short. Some of the songs that I use can be found on the "Repeating Songs" tababove (even some possibly cringe-worthy videos of me singing them), or in the thematic storytime write-ups listed in the right-hand column.Jbrary.com a great source for songs and rhymes, with videos so you can hear the tunes and see the motions.The activities portion lasts anywhere from 15-30 minutes, depending on how many kids show up, their ages, and the activities. Occasionally Ill have a couple of families linger, but at 20-30 minutes Ill go ahead and put away anything they aren't using and go on out to the children's department, leaving the door open so I can keep an eye on things to be sure the room doesn't get wrecked and things don't "walk away" (sad, but true). Most families hang around in the children's department playing, socializing, and picking out books for a little while after storytime.\*Note for Outreach Storytimes- When I do classroom visits to daycare and preschools, I do not do crafts or activities, just the basic storytime. When I first start with a new client, or at the beginning of the school year, I usually shorten it a bit the first time or two, but I generally find I can do 2 books easily with toddlers in this setting as circle time is part of their daily routine. I currently am only able make visits once per month due to lack of staff and all the demands on my time, but my preference would be to visit every other week.Ill add this plan to the "Storytime Plans"link above.If you'd like more detailed discussions of specific elements of storytime planning, check out all my posts tagged "Storytime Planning".What does your Toddler Storytime look like? You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax, all you need is a book Dr Seuss! dont know about you but we love stories in our house!There is something magical about going on a journey through a story and exploring new places as we imagine together what a place might be like! believe reading with children is so important and so I love it when creative play and story times come together!Using characters, settings, loose parts and sensory elements we can create some great story baskets, story sacks, crafts and tuff trays setups that can really bring a story to life!This post contains affiliate links, which means I receive a small commission, at no extra cost to you, if you make a purchase using this link. Please see my disclosure for more details.Story Sack Dear ZooStory Basket The Tiger Who Came to TeaStory Craft Stick ManTuff Tray Story The Gingerbread ManPreviousNextWhy is storytime so important? Childhood Development Reading and sharing stories together is a great way to help your child develop literacy skills in early childhood as they recognise sounds and begin to form words The Imagination Stories really help to stretch the imagination, and takes us to places we may not have otherwise conceived. Discovering new places and people in stories can create curious children, keen to explore their own surroundings Communication Skills As stories are shared, listened to, and retold, they are helping children to communicate with others, and it can help them to express their own feelings and emotions as they process the feelings they are learning about through stories Listening Skills Young children have so much to take in as they grow up and can easily be distracted stories are a great way to practice listening skills In our house we use Audible stories as a way to really engage with our children (and we like the grown up stories too!)CharactersHaving characters that you can physically see or hold is one great way to bring a story to life for children start by using stories that they are very familiar with and see how they interact with the characters from what they already know of the story!Characters you can hold in your handWooden spoon Characters You can purchase some beautiful story spoons, but if you would like to have a go at creating them yourself then stick to simple designs (unless you are very artistic of course!) and a great option is to paint the top of your spoon with chalkboard paint and then you can change the characters depending on the story you could encourage older toddlers to have a go at drawing their own characters too!Soft Toys You may have soft toys and teddies that go with specific stories but if you dont, there are plenty of generic stories that you can use whatever animals you toys you have The story Dear Zoo is a great one for cuddly toys!Painted Wooden Peg Dolls Again this is something you can purchase, but if you want to have a go yourself you can purchase wooden dolls on Amazon and have a go at creating your own characters Story Stones these are a great and inexpensive way to create outdoor stories simply draw your characters on with some paint pens or nail varnish works great too! For older children you could write names too.Becoming the CharactersCostumes Fancy dress is a great way to get into a story. You dont need to wait for World Book Day to dress up as your favourite story characters Fancy dress comes in lots of different forms, from full on shop bought costumes, to homemade outfits, hats and any accessory you feel might fit the character!Masks This is another easy way to get into character these are easy to make with some card and elastic (or you can buy ready made ones to colour in). You could also make some that are held up to the face using a the end of a wooden spoon. It doesnt even have to be a full on mask an eye patch is great for any pirate story!Puppets hand puppets and finger puppets are such a fun way to bring a story to life and they are fairly inexpensive too! If you are a fan of the story Were going on a Bear Hunt, then these free printable finger puppets are perfect for little ones especially when combined with the tuff tray set up!SettingsSetting the scene can really help bring stories to life too Helping children to imagine what it might be like to be physically in the story setting.Buildings try using construction toys for a backdrop to your stories Duplo, magnetic tiles, and building blocks are all easy ways to set the scene for your story this Magnetic Tiles Castle would be perfect for a princess story or you could make houses out of Duplo bricks get creative and see what you can come up with Gingerbread houses they arent just for Christmas (!) Gingerbread houses are a great story telling accessory and they are super yummy too so its a win-win!Using Chalk like with the story spoons, chalk is a great versatile option paint chalk paint on to blocks of wood to make a city scene by drawing on lights and windows or create 3 different looking houses for the 3 little pigs. You dont need a chalkboard to use paint though why not draw a house or scene in the garden using jumbo chalk!Outdoors We recently went on a Bear Hunt walk we found some long wavy grass, splashed in a little stream and got stuck in some thick oozy mud!Sand if your story is at the beach (Pip and Posy: The New Friend is a fun one if youve not read it!) then why not take your story into the sand pit!Shadow Puppet Theatre why not try setting up a little theatre using either some fabric or even paper just make sure you have the lighting behind your puppets (just print out and cut out some characters or settings) you could tell the story to your little ones whilst they watch or even better have the story play and you act it out!! highly recommend Audible for childrens audio books this is a great way to engage your kids and for new customers there is a 30 day free trial with one free audio book so why not give it a go!Loose parts and sensory playAn easy way to engage children and let them take the lead is with loose parts play this is using any parts or objects to encourage open ended play and creativity in childrenTinker Toys these are for toddlers to get hands-on in a storytime use things associated with the story that they can touch and feel to get a grasp of the storyGeneric story baskets not all story baskets have to have a theme in mind , you could put together a generic story basket with some dolls or teddies, and some blocks and other generic items that could be used in lots of different story sessionsSensory wooden spoons I absolutely love these sensory wooden spoons to go along with the story Were going on a bear hunt from Imagination Tree she uses materials that would be great for younger children to experience the story through touchSensory Play For children of all ages but especially younger toddlers or babies, sensory play is a brilliant way to engage them with a story and to try using sand, foam, or water in your stories.I spy Story bottles fill a bottle with rice and some objects that relate to the story and see if your child can find the objects in the bottles discuss what part they play in the storySound effects Kids love to make noise (mine cant be the only ones!) Why not put that noise making to a use and get them to create sound effects for their favourite stories you dont need to have any musical instruments, get creative and see what you have in your home balloons stretched over tins or bottles make great drum skins, elastic bands make great guitar strings over a yoghurt pot and theres always saucers if you can stand the noise!!Playdough I think playdough just about works in any situation! The possibilities are endless and there arent many things you cant create with it!Engaging Older ChildrenDepending on the age of your child, you might want to try some of these activities to encourage them further in their learningMake up stories encourage your child to use props and to make up a story of their own help them think about who will be in the story, where it will be set and how it might endAlternative endings what happens at the end of the story after its finished? Or what would a different ending look like? These may seem quite challenging questions for little ones but youd be surprised what they can come up with Kims game If youre using a story basket, try taking away one element and see if your child can remember whats been takenQuestions ask lots of open-ended questions to spark your childs imagination and get them thinkingSequencing You could print out story cards for a favourite story and see if your child can put the cards in order!Guess the story Show your child the story props in a basket or bag, and see if they can guess what the story is!Bringing lots of ideas together to create a storytime set up your toddler will love!So weve got lots of ideas for what we can incorporate into our story time now, to really bring them to life but I also have some story sets for you to recreate at home based on some of our favourite stories enjoy!Story Baskets The Tiger Who Came to Tea (Judith Kerr)The Tiger Who Came to Tea is one of our favourite stories and we had so much fun putting together this story basket to help us tell the story!This is what we included:TigerDoll (Sophie)Lots of Toy foodToy bathCafe tableclothTeapotMilkSaucerAnd a tin of tiger food!Some of the things we had in the house, some of them we made just choose some element of the story that you already have, and have a go at making your own story basket!Story Sacks Dear Zoo (Rod Campbell)Similar to the story baskets, this is a collection of items from a story, altogether in one bag this is great for story sequencing and for getting out one item at a time if your child is easily distracted or overwhelmed by too many options!What we included in our Dear Zoo Story Sack:Soft Toy elephantDuplo GiraffeLegs Camel creationA monkey (Fingerling)Lego frog creationBean bag snakePom-pom Lion faceTalking Puppy dog!Again these were all toys we had around the house or made out of building bricks! You could use printed pictures or balls with stickers on to go in the story sack, or even finger puppets!Story Crafts Stick Man (Julia Donaldson)Having a craft to go alongside your storytelling helps the enter and characters really set in your childs mind there are so many options but we went for the story of the Stick Man here and had a go at making our very own StickMan!We used:Sticks with Y shaped legs (this can take some hunting!)Wool in varying colours go wild!Elastic bands to hold the arm stick in place under the wool!Googly eyes because every craft I do has to have them!!There are so many crafts you could have a go at In a recent blog post I shared how I made these Three Little Pigs and a Wolf out of toilet rolls and foam felt (and of course googly eyes!)!Story Tuff Trays -The Gingerbread ManAnd to finish off weve got a sensory play Tuff Tray based on the story of the Gingerbread man! This was a really easy set up which kept my kids occupied for hours so Im sure youll have fun with this one!What I used:Wooden UtensilsPlastic CuttersPompoms for decoration and playHomemade Gingerbread Playdough!Cloud DoughMy recipe is a rough guide and I adapt it each time depending on what I am using the dough for, I simple use small plastic cups to keep it simple and double or triple the recipe depending on how much I want to create- 2 small cups of flour Half a small cup of vegetable oil A spoonful of both ginger and cinnamon (it smells amazing!)Mix it all in a bowl and have fun with this taste safe gingerbread sensory dough!Another great Story Tuff Tray that we love is based on the book Were Going on a Bear Hunt and you can find out all about that Tuff Tray HereShare Your Story TimeThe above story ideas are just a fraction of what is possible there are so many different stories out there to explore, and endless ways to do so!Have fun bringing your stories to life with these creative storytime ideas and Id love to see what you get up to so be sure to tag your photos on social media with the hashtag #creativestorytimesHappy Storytime!

**How to make storytime fun for preschoolers. 5 minute toddler activities. Storytelling activity for toddlers. Story time activity for preschoolers. Story time activity. Story activities for toddlers. Story time ideas. Storytime for toddlers. Story time kid.**