

WEEKLY THEME: STORY FACTORY

Developed by Dara Podjarski Marcus

DAY ONE: BOOK DAY

SESSION 1

STARTER: What is a story? A story can be true or pretend, where we tell or re-tell about an event or a journey or an experience or what we know or what we are thinking. Did you know that we are surrounded by stories every day. Where do you see stories? Books, TV, school, songs, pictures, movies. When you tell me/a friend about something that happened to you, you are telling a story. Can you think of the last story you heard? Think hard: it may be something you just heard a few minutes ago! This week, we are going to have fun thinking about and doing lots of different kinds of stories. Today we're going to start with books.

**Choose 2-3 activities for 20 minutes each, with short transition breaks in-between*

STORY HUNTING

Kid/s choose a book each.

LEVEL 1 - Scavenger Hunt: Kids go around the house and find 5 items that are in their book.

LEVEL 2 - Memory game: Player 1 places all 5 items in front of them. Player 2 needs to close their eyes while Player 1 takes away an item. Player 2 opens their eyes and has to guess which item is missing. Keep playing and taking turns between players. Then start to take away 2+ items for guessing.

LEVEL 3 - Treasure Hunt: Younger kids: hide the items around the house and play 'hot and cold' as you find them. Older kids: Draw a treasure map of your house/apartment/a specific room. Kid/s then hide the items around the house. As they hide the items, they must plot it on their map. Swap maps and find the treasures (either between the kids, or as a team including the parent).

MAKE YOUR OWN STORY

Online with sesame street characters <https://pbskids.org/sesame/games/story-book-builder/>

OR generic <https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/games/story-maker-1>

(Print or take a picture of the stories they create, to use for 'Drama Day')

STORY COLLAGE

Grab a bunch of old magazines, newspapers, junk mail flyers, etc, and cut out pictures to prompt storytelling. Ideally let them select a range of items on their own. Use the completed collages as the basis for a simple story, asking kids to tell their own story from their finished masterpiece. If they are unsure how to begin or continue, use simple prompts such as: "Once upon a time there was..." "One day..." "And because of that..." "Until..." "And, finally..." Your child's stories might start out very short and simple, but the more you share storytelling experiences, the more confident they will become.

INDOOR ACTIVE

Cosmic Kids Yoga:

- The Very Hungry Caterpillar www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhWDiQRrC1Y

- Harry Potter www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-BS87NTV5I

- Other classics such as Gruffalo and three little pigs via the Cosmic Kids app.

SESSION 2

**Choose 2-3 activities for 20 minutes each, with short transition breaks in-between*

STORY PATH

Tape a long piece of paper on the floor and draw a path of sorts. Take out loads of stickers, markers etc and then the kids draw around it from their imaginations. As they go along the path, you can add speech bubbles and little bits here and there and 'build' a story along the path. You can talk about beginnings, middles & ends and how plots 'work'. (Thanks to Dannii B- Mazor)



HOW TO DRAW A...

Books also have pictures. Go to 'Art Hub' and go wild with searching for whatever you would like to learn to draw. Takes you through the process very well and you can pause as you go.

www.youtube.com/user/ArtforKidsHub

SHORT STORIES

2-3 minute story clips with prepared pre- and post-clip d post-game activities. Can be done online and with printables. <https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/short-stories/>

OUTDOOR ACTIVE

Go for a walk/scooter, bike ride - guess shapes of the clouds

SOCIAL

BOOK COVERS

Choose a book and recreate the front cover, for example:

www.pinterest.com/pin/159174168050860054/

Zoom with family or friend and read a story together (same book)



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DAY TWO: SHOW DAY

SESSION 1

STARTER: Today is show day - we are going to make shows! We'll think about all the things we need to make a show, and different types of ways we can do it. What kinds of shows have we seen? What do you remember seeing, for eg people, costumes, props, a stage. Shows/concerts/theatre make stories come alive. The story becomes an active and interactive experience. It's a way for us to express ourselves, trying out different voices, ways to walk or stand, ways to move our face, clothes. It helps us learn about and understand the world around us.

**Choose 2-3 activities for 20 minutes each, with short transition breaks in-between*

TALK THE TALK

Kid/s, count from one to 10 (out loud!). Next, let your voice go loud, then soft. Go high, then low. Go fast, then slow. Do you hear the difference? Which way do you like? Then add these different ways as if you were angry, sad, underwater, a baby, etc

BRINGING BOOKS TO LIFE

Kid/s chooses a book. They are going to dramatise it using household toys, items, dress up clothes to create a show. Similar to this: <https://theimaginationtree.com/goldilocks-and-three-bears-dramatic/>

BRINGING THEIR STORIES TO LIFE

Dramatise/act out the stories they created in 'Book Day'.

BRINGING THEIR WORLD TO THE STAGE

Dress up as different people they know: mum, dad, grandma, grandpa, siblings, etc. Then put on a show if they want. And of course, they will dress up and/or put on a show about anything else!

INDOOR ACTIVE

Youtube "Just Dance" or "Just Dance Kids"

SESSION 2

**Choose 2-3 activities for 20 minutes each, with short transition breaks in-between*

PUPPET FACTORY

Puppets are a great opportunity for imaginative play: they are fun, encourage storytelling and creative expression and role play.

Sock puppets: www.kidspot.com.au/things-to-do/activity-articles/sock-puppet-simple/news-story/9c45a1a2400e7e046e3aef0505893c92?

Finger puppets (printables): www.woojr.com/printable-finger-puppets-cut-color/

Pop up puppet: www.kidspot.com.au/things-to-do/activity-articles/popup-puppet/news-story/36d6c3061619c90d69daddec349467b?

Rubber Glove puppets: www.kidspot.com.au/things-to-do/activity-articles/make-finger-puppets-from-rubber-gloves/news-story/087c11253943a319d1a0721c46024aac?

Wooden Spoon Puppets: www.kidspot.com.au/things-to-do/activity-articles/wooden-spoon-puppets/news-story/8f9d08804627e9614e627bc8cb35fab?

If you're adventurous, make a simple puppet theatre: www.kidspot.com.au/things-to-do/activity-articles/how-to-make-your-own-puppet-theatre/news-story/292d3986e8c54e07a33e09b2fc3030a2?

 **Puppet Theater Pretend Play Ideas** 

Have the puppets speak in different voices: baby voice, high voice, low voice, teenager voice, 'underwater' voice & more!
Find an object that everyone knows. Pretend one of the puppets is an alien that has NEVER seen it before, and explain what it is and how it's used. The person playing the alien can make up NEW uses for it, too.

Act out a scene from a book or a movie

Have characters from different books "meet" each other; what would they say?

Sing a song in the puppet's voice!

Pretend the puppets are in space. How would they act?

Act out a typical day in the life of your puppet. How would they wake up? What would they eat? What's their favorite bedtime story?

Show how your puppet acts when it feels happy, sad, angry, scared, confused, sleepy, thrilled and more

Does your puppet have a job (firefighter, policeman, teacher)? Show them doing the job. Have them switch jobs with another puppet and see what happens!

Have your puppet DANCE!

find more ideas for kids at www.makinglemonadeblog.com

OUTDOOR ACTIVE

Go for a walk past a local theatre or community hall or similar place where shows take place (even though it will be closed, it's a destination for the walk and develops a deeper context to the place.

SOCIAL

ARE YOU READY FOR THE SHOW??

....and of course **Zoom** with family or kids' friends and put on a show! You can even plan in advance for each zoom-er to put on a *short* show for each other. Really try keep it short, it gets hard online.

SESSION 1

STARTER: Today is movie day! Not just any movie day - we're going to start the day by having a movie **pyjama party**. We have a few things to do before we start the movie party.

- **SET UP:** Kids get involved in setting up the living room as a bedroom: Pillows! Blankets! Quilts! Toys!
- **PILLOWCASE ART:** Buy four plain white pillowcases and some fabric markers – or use some old pillowcases from home and whatever markers you already have. Cover a pillow and the kids have a special pillow for the movie pyjama party.
- **ACT OUT THE SONGS**
- 'All the cows are sleeping' www.youtube.com/watch?v=CtRgy-8Q0SE
- 'There were 10 in the bed' with kids and toys – really lie down and REALLY roll over!

- **LIGHTS OUT, TORCHES ON**

- **MAKE POPCORN**

- **MOVIE!!**

You can try set up a 'netflix movie party' with friends www.netflixparty.com

If you are following the Little Compass Daily Flow, the movie would run at around 10:30-12:00

INDOOR
ACTIVE

Read the kids' rhythm and needs

SESSION 2

**Choose 2-3 activities for 20 minutes each, with short transition breaks in-between*

SCULPT CHARACTERS FROM THE MOVIE

Either buy, use what you have, or make some play dough/plastecine. Find buttons, bottle tops, pasta, rice, sticks, anything else around the house and set them out as an invitation to create. They can choose characters from the movie they just watched or another of their favourites and use all the materials in front of them to sculpt characters and scenes from the movie. If you have a shoe box or a cardboard sheet, they can build a scene on that.

PANCAKE MATHS

Use paper pancakes as a non-standard measuring device to find items in the room that are one pancake long, two pancakes long, etc. Then get together with a friend and have them lay down on their side and measure how many pancakes long the friend is (or a string of pancakes could be already taped together with numbers on them and attached to a wall and the kids could stand beside it to see how many pancakes tall they are.) www.littlegiraffes.com/pajamaparty.html



MAKE PANCAKES

2 large eggs, 2 medium bananas, 2 TBs peanut (or other nut) butter, 1 tsp baking powder
Preheat a large frying pan or griddle to low-medium heat. Place all the ingredients in a blender and pulse until smooth. (Add blueberries or chocolate chips to the batter). Lightly grease the frying pan/griddle with oil. Pour about 3 tablespoons of batter onto the griddle. Fry until you see a few air bubbles on top of the uncooked side. Flip, and continue to cook for 1-3 minutes on the second side. Repeat with the rest of the batter. Serve with yoghurt, maple syrup or whatever toppings you prefer.

OR www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/jamie-oliver/pancakes-recipe-2011660

OUTDOOR
ACTIVE

Go for a scooter/bike ride

SOCIAL

MOVIE REVIEWS

Zoom with family or kids' friends and tell them about what you did today. You can even plan in advance for each zoom-er to watch the same movie and talk about it. Or watch different movies and share what they remember and learned.

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DAY FOUR: MUSIC DAY

SESSION 1

STARTER: Today's story day is about music and dance. Have you ever noticed that music can sometimes sound like it's telling us a story? Both through the words AND the sounds. If music is slow, it might be telling us something that is...? If music is fast, it might be telling us something that is...? It also makes us feel those things when we hear it. Dancing too – when we dance, we tell stories with our bodies and movements. In fact, before you could speak, the sounds you made were really like music. And the movements you made were kind of like dances. It's a way to communicate, to say what you are thinking and feeling – and to share those moods and feelings with others so that maybe when you hear a happy song, you will also feel happy. Now is the time to whip out any instruments you have at home and have a jam sesh.

**Choose 2-3 activities for 20 minutes each, with short transition breaks in-between*

MUSICAL CLOTHES

Gather a bag of unusual clothing and accessories (wacky hats, rubber noses, wigs) – and parents' clothes! Put the bag on a chair. Using their musicals instruments (or turning on music), have the kids walk around the chair. When you stop the music, the kids must grab one item from the bag (without looking - you get what you get) and put it on. See what wacky costume they end up in!

DRAW WHAT YOU HEAR

Cue up different types of music — pop, kids, classical, country, etc. Give your child some paper and different colored markers or crayons. Start the music and ask them to draw what they are hearing. If they are having trouble, demonstrate. For example, with slower music, you might draw long, loping lines in a dark color. With a faster tune, shorter, sharper angles using a brighter shade. There's no wrong answer here, just what you feel. You can also do the same activity but with lyrics that they hear, where they draw pictures of (or write...) two or three words they hear in the song.

GLASS XYLOPHONE

Depending on your kid's destructive ability...fill an assortment of glasses or jugs (or both) with varying levels of water. Line them up in order from least to most full. Give your child a spoon and have them experiment with the different sounds.

INDOOR
ACTIVE

FREEZE DANCE/MUSICAL STATUES

Blast some of your preschooler's favorite tunes (and some of your own!) and dance away! Then yell "freeze!" and stop the music. See what funny positions everyone winds up in. How long can you hold them?

SESSION 2

**Choose 2-3 activities for 20 minutes each, with short transition breaks in-between*

CONDUCTOR KIDS

A conductor helps bring everyone together by leading. Use this song - each time the music plays, kid has to lead with an action and everyone needs to follow.

MAKE AN INSTRUMENT

With kids, gather whatever you have at home – cereal boxes, rubber bands, tins, yoghurt containers etc + stickers and other decorations. See what instrument you can make – a drum/guitar/shakers – google depending on your choice.

MAGIC CARPET RIDE

Play the song 'A whole new world' – and say 2 lines about the song/story if they don't know it. Then grab a blanket/sheet and each kid takes a turn sitting and you/other kid pulling them along for an indoor magic carpet ride.

OUTDOOR
ACTIVE

Go on a sound hunt: on your walk, kid/s can point out the sounds they hear. Can you chase the sound?

SOCIAL

At bath time, encourage your kids to experiment with the acoustics in the bathroom. What happens when you open or close the shower curtain or door? What sounds do their toys make when they plop in the water - the same, different? If you're willing: can they sing louder than the running water?

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DAY FIVE: PHOTO DAY

SESSION 1

STARTER: Today is photo day! Photos tell stories too. A photo is something that captures a moment. It tells a story without using motion pictures or words. Sometimes we can get a lot from the photo – but we also often never learn the full story behind a photo. Taking photos is a great way to “capture” a memory, so we can remember or even see things from a time or place when we weren’t even there. Like mum+dad’s wedding! Today we will do lots of different games and activities with a camera but we can’t live behind the camera all the time. We need to find balance. We also need to be ‘in-the-moment and capture a moment in your heart and mind, without a camera. Give a quick tutorial on how to hold the phone/camera best if you need camera. For kids who aren’t ready to hold the phone yet – or if it is too much camera holding for one day – parents can be the photographer.

**Choose 2-3 activities for 20 minutes each, with short transition breaks in-between*

MEMORY LANE

Bring out some family albums – maybe your wedding album! The kids will have lots of questions about what and who they see. You can also ask kids to describe what they see. Ask Who? What? Where? When? and Why? questions to help with their descriptions.

SELF-PORTRAIT

Take a bunch of selfies. Then the kid should draw a picture of themselves on paper. Compare and laugh at the similarities and differences.

STORY HUNT

Have your kid/s walk around the house and photograph different colors, then shapes. You can also do an ABC version where they photograph letters they see OR objects that start with different letters of the alphabet. Assign roles and turns according to your kids abilities and dynamic.

INDOOR
ACTIVE

Play a game from your childhood, such as hopscotch/elastics/an indoor version of skipping rope (wiggle the rop on the ground and kids jump over it).

**Choose 2-3 activities for 20 minutes each, with short transition breaks in-between*

PHOTO SHOOT

Set up an area and dress up clothes – they can dress up and you take photos of them (what’s new...??)

GUESSING GAME

Take turns with your child, taking photos of objects, both ‘close up’ and ‘far away’. Then share your close up photos after they’re taken, and see if the other person can guess what it is.

PHOTO GALLERY

Print out some of the photos you’ve taken today (or previous ones) – they are going to set up a gallery! Clear a wall/table/area to display the photos. The kids can create frames from cardboard or paddle pop sticks, or decorate the outside of the picture itself.

TIME CAPSULES

As seen here: <https://handsonaswegrow.com/3-photo-activities-kids-love-taking-pictures/>

Set out to make a time capsule of images with your family. Make a list of some of the fun things you want to remember about this time in your life. Your favourite games to play, places to go, people to see, or outfits to wear. Once you have your list, snap photos of each of these items – or all together.

Printed Time Capsule: Print the images and place them in a sealed envelope. You can simply tuck the capsule away in a corner/closet/room in your home. *Digital Time Capsule:* Save the images to the cloud (Dropbox would work well for this) and then write a letter with your child on [Future Me](#). Schedule the letter to be sent to you at a set time in the future!

OUTDOOR
ACTIVE

100 STEPS

Grab a camera. Together take 100 steps in any direction. When you get to 100 stop. You must compose and frame a photo from where you are standing. See where your steps take you and what you can create! You can also adjust the number of 'required' steps as you go.

SOCIAL

Share pictures with family and friends of what you did today/are doing right now.