

Story Time



The curriculum for funded, non-maintained nursery settings encourage practitioners to model good communication skills and to offer communication-rich environments. Communication is a foundational part of children's development; it's vital for forming relationships and essential for learning, playing and social interaction. Introducing young children to stories and books kindles their interest in stories, songs and rhymes from their own culture, and other cultures too. By communicating with others, children develop their confidence, listening skills and vocabulary and learn to pay attention.

After listening to and participating in a familiar story or rhyme, it's possible that children may be able to begin repeating the story or sharing the story in their own words. They can act out the story with their friends and use language in a fun and playful way. Sharing stories with children in our settings offers consistent, invaluable opportunities to immerse them in the Welsh language.

Therefore, it's vital that settings hold Story Time sessions, either for the whole group or in smaller groups, throughout the setting, both indoors and outdoors. At some point during the session there will be an opportunity to introduce a story or look at books, and this is so important for



young children! Even if children don't choose to participate, they are likely to hear what's going on in the background and this will be absorbed by them, helping them to develop their listening and communication skills.

Ideas:

- Introduce the story to a large or small group of children and create a 'live story'.
- Live story: use props, puppets, pictures, costumes, toys and various sounds – anything visual that will stimulate the children's imagination!



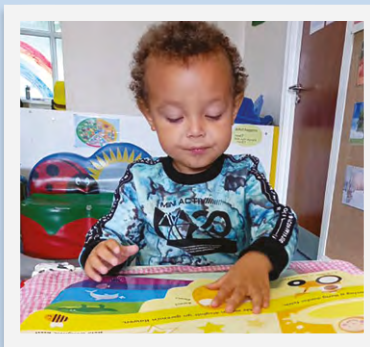
- What about including simple little songs when introducing the story?
- Use story cards – break the story into sections, using pictures and words, and give children the opportunity to put the story in order (a great sequential activity after you've introduced the story numerous times).
- Create a 'Story Sack/Hat/Basket' – fill it with various items taken from the story to expand the children's imaginations. You can invite every child to take items from the hat/sack/basket – to name them and discuss them, to expand language and understanding.

- A staff member can begin to introduce the story/book in an area (indoors or outdoors) and the children may choose to participate or not, but that will be their personal decision. Including Dewin and Doti will be a way of attracting them.



- Introduce simple and diverse stories which correspond to the children's ability and interests.

- Repeat the story several times during the week – the repetition will help the children to understand and develop their language and listening skills.



- If a child is looking at a book, in any area, join them to read and discuss the book and ask questions and introduce language.

- What about telling a story in the following areas: in a gigantic box, in a boat in the outdoor area, in woodland, in a paddling pool, in the playhouse... use your imagination! Consider creating a shelter for use in bad weather if there isn't a suitable place available.



- Why not create an atmospheric outdoor area by setting up fairy lights, offering a warm drink to the children etc. when presenting a story outdoors, or by removing shoes, snuggling under a blanket when indoors.

- Set up a book box/shelf in the outdoor area so that children can access books at any time.

- Why not create story packs, e.g., in A4 wallets or a story basket including books and associated resources such as pictures, words, simple activities, sound clips... The children may select which story they want to hear in any area.

- Home contact – create a Story Bag for children to take home with them, including the book and some items associated with the story (small toys, pictures, puppets) and a notebook for parents/carers to note any response and to practice words with the child. You can include sound clips on a 'sound peg' featuring specific words.

- Give children the opportunity to bring a toy with them from home and involve them in the story time.

- Show a digital story to the children. You can show a story to a small group of children on the big screen, or children can watch individually on an iPad – there's plenty of choice available.

