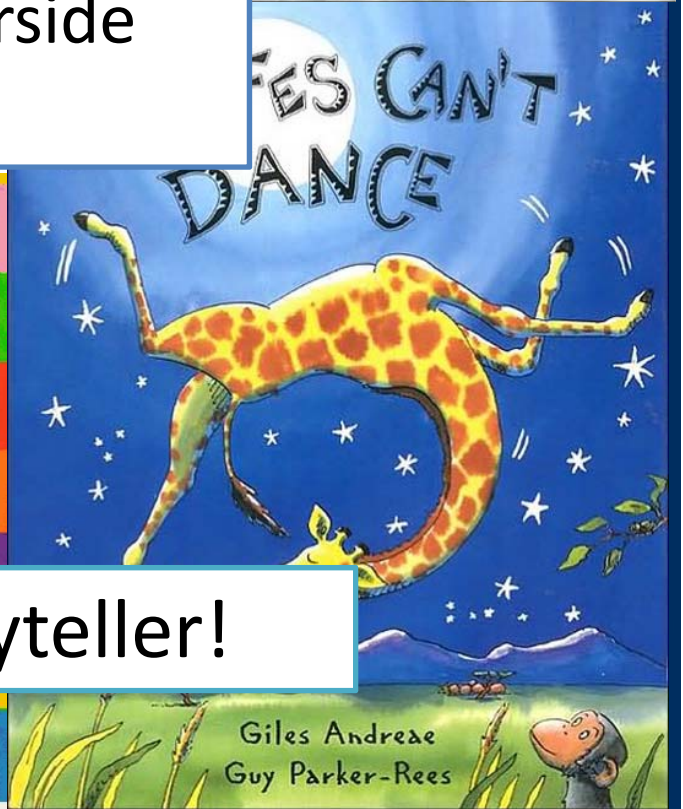
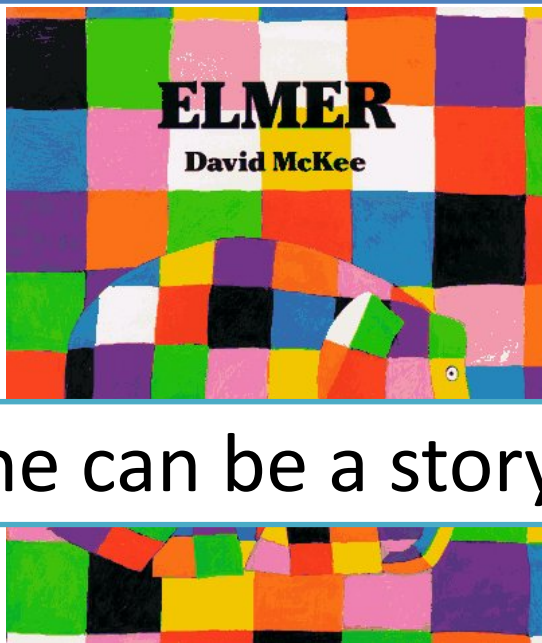
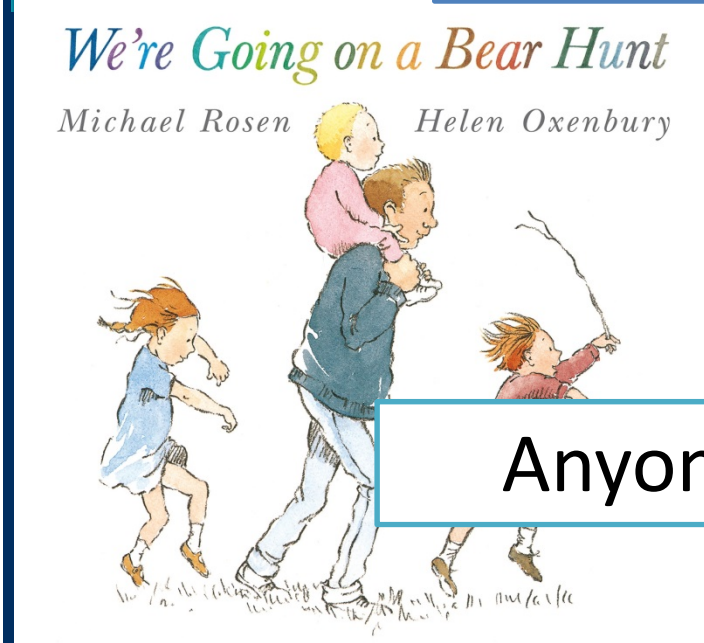


Sensory Stories at Riverside School



Anyone can be a storyteller!

# Why do we read to children?

- Builds relationships
- Exposure to language
- Listening to things like tone of voice
- Hearing new sounds, words and phrases
- New experiences
- Engagement and shared attention
- Interactive
- Calming
- Promotes and reinforces communication
- Builds listening skills and imagination



How do we make books accessible to our learners?



## **1. Choose a story**

Choose a book, story or theme that you and your child will enjoy - remember you don't need a book to tell a story!

## **2. Summarise it**

Summarise the story into short sentences – about 10 for the whole story is ideal. Keep it short and simple!

### **3. Pick 10 keywords**

Think about roughly 10 keywords in the story - these should be the most important for the story to be told and will usually include the who/what/where/doing words.

## **4. Find props**

Look around your home for props to bring your sensory story to life - and especially find props to represent your keywords. Props can be anything from using the space behind a sofa as a dark cave, or using coffee grains from the kitchen as mucky dirt. Pound shops and charity shops can be great places to find cheap props too!

## **5. Make some noise!**

You can use sounds, songs, clapping and actions to create a truly sensory story experience. Encourage your child to join in or make their own sounds and movements.



## **6. Use your imagination**

Don't feel that everything has to be literal. Rain could be the noise of your fingers pattering on the table, a water spray, wagging your fingertips to indicate raindrops falling to the ground or a combination of these things. The more clues you give your child to help them understand a word the better.

## **7. Repeat, repeat, repeat!**

Be ready to tell the same story several times.  
Repetition is very important in helping children to learn.

# Elements of a good story:

- Personalised – 2 or 3 things your child really enjoys
- Sound effects
- Repetitive phrases
- Tone of voice
- Facial expression
- Actions



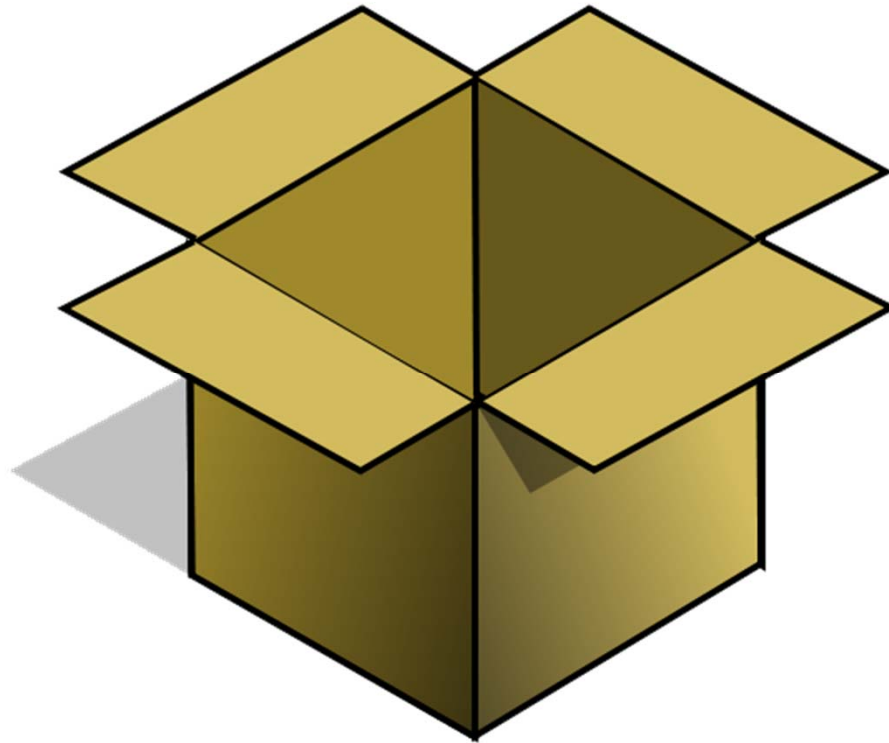
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What's in the box?

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# What resources can we add?



*Vision*



*Olfaction*



*Gustation*



*Audition*



*Somatosensory*



*Vestibular*



*Proprioception*

A high-speed photograph of a water splash, rendered in a monochromatic blue color scheme. The water is captured in mid-air, creating a complex, crystalline structure of droplets and streams. The word "Water" is printed in a clean, black, sans-serif font, centered horizontally and vertically over the splash. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue, suggesting a bright, open environment.

Water

A collage of outdoor materials. The background is divided into several vertical sections: a textured brown gravel on the far left; a layer of dark brown wood mulch; a section of irregularly shaped, light-colored natural stones; a section of smooth, dark grey river stones; and a section of light-colored, rectangular wood planks on the far right. A white rectangular box with a black border is centered horizontally across the middle of the collage, containing the text "Outdoor materials".

# Outdoor materials





# Fabrics





# Spices



# Resources

- <http://jo.element42.org/> Joanna Grace
- Mencap Sensory Stories  
<https://www.mencap.org.uk/blog/create-your-own-sensory-story-7-steps>
- Sensory Massage Stories
- Makaton – Makachat – the next one will be story related! January 11<sup>th</sup>?
- <http://www.simplestuffworks.co.uk/downloads> - bedtime sensory stories