



BEYOND THE BOOK STORY KITS TIP SHEET

The purpose of this tip sheet is to guide the teaching team in the process of planning and implementing a story time using the “Beyond the Book Story Kits”. The role of the educator is to engage children in an interactive story time by including props to set the stage for a meaningful and purposeful opportunity for learning. Using props will lead children to discover the joys of literature through connections and engagement.

Books come alive when children are actively engaged in the story.

Implementation

- Read the book ahead of time to familiarize yourself with the story and the material.
- Decide which props to include as well as when and how to incorporate them during the story (each child pulls a prop out of a bag prior to the story).
- Determine the best time for your group to plan for the story activity (e.g. prior to lunchtime, during outdoor playtime etc.)
- Lead and encourage active participation.
- Consider reading the book initially (depending on the age/needs of the children), then again at another time with the props.
- Engage each child on the level of their individual interests and needs, (e.g. some children may look at the book, some may only explore the props, some children may only want to listen).
- Build engagement by adding or allowing children to add preferred toys or props to the story, (e.g. Spiderman can be a guest at the birthday party or join the walk in the woods).

Consideration

- Consider the needs of each child in your group (e.g. allowing a child to continue to hold an object for the rest of the story time)
- Evaluate and carefully plan all elements of the environment (e.g. personal space, transition leading to the group time) in order to promote a positive group story time.
- Plan to have more props than you need to decrease conflict and to provide choices, (e.g. more than one soft baby bunny).

Benefits of Including Props During Story Time

It provides:

- a physical/sensory connection to the book;
- a concrete representation of concept;
- an opportunity to anticipate what might happen;
- objects to hold and maintain interest;
- opportunities to practice turn taking and sharing;
- a sense of belonging and collaboration;
- a deeper understanding of the story and language.

Expanding the Story Experience

- Add the story and props to your calm down area or story corner.
- Consider ways to expand the story/experience into other areas of your program (e.g. sensory bins, loose materials in creative area, physical activities, transition times, etc...).
- Balance introducing new stories with re-telling familiar stories, so the group can choose which story to tell and how to tell it, (e.g. using the doll family or the puppet family, using the large stuffed d animals or the small rubber animals, using the felt pieces or the masks).
- Create a collection of story kits in your program that can be signed out over the weekend for families to enjoy together.