

Fascinating fairy tale suitcase

Encourage children at your nursery to explore their imagination and develop their speech and language skills through storytelling in this fascinating fairy tale adventure activity.

Learning aims

- Use language to relay a story or event
- Use imagination to tell/develop a story
- Explore different ideas through different sensory experiences
- Recall key events
- To practise good listening skills
- Taking turns with others
- Building self-esteem and confidence.



Resources

- Suitcase / bag / box
- A well-known fairy tale / story books / props
- A variety of interesting resources that will inspire children and encourage conversation:
 - Open-ended / natural resources to stimulate senses
 - Pictures / photos / images of people
 - Interesting objects from second hand / charity shops
 - Interesting items donated by parents and family members

Activity Outline

- Introduce the activity to a small group of pre-school aged children
- Show them a fairy tale / story book they are familiar with and help them to recall key events
- Engage their interest by explaining they are going to make up their own fairy tale and introduce them to the case / box of objects and the activity
- Start with one child and ask them to decide on a main character
 - It could be someone they have made up themselves or someone they may see in one of the photos / images in the case
- In turn, go around the circle encouraging each child to pick an object and talk about it to continue the story
- Encourage children to be as imaginative as they want to be
- Support all children to contribute by prompting them where appropriate
- Help to extend their thinking and language by asking open-ended questions at appropriate times
- Some children may be more confident to talk than others
 - Respect all children's contribution and help children to listen to each other
 - You could set rules at the start and set a time to give each child the opportunity to speak
- Allow children to continue with their story until it reaches a natural end
- Recall key points from their story focusing on the key characters and events
- Praise children for their efforts and achievements.

Extending the activity

- Create a fairy tale book following the activity, recording the children's story using their own words, quotes and drawings
- Create a map of the places and events reflecting the children's fairy tale
- Create character props or carry out a role-play activity to re-enact the story
- Give children the time and opportunity to continue their fairy tale or to start a new one