

Daily tips for Playful Learning at Home – Number 32



Story Sticks



Children love stories, even when there's no book! Children also enjoy taking part in making up stories which is surprisingly easy to do with a few props to get you started!

You will probably find that your child has a much better imagination than you when you give them plenty time to think and share their ideas with you.

What do I need?

- A stick or wooden spoon
- A large elastic band or a few small ones
OR
a piece of string or wool
- Some very small items from around the house or garden

What will your child learn from this play?

Making choices

Fine motor control

Listening skills

Use of imagination

Learning new vocabulary

What do we do?

- Show your child how to wrap the elastic bands around the stick. Let them have a go by themselves and give them some help if needed. If using wool or string wrap quite loosely.
- Help your child to find some very small and interesting items around the house or garden and place them under the elastic bands.
- Sit down in a cosy, quiet place and talk about the items. You can develop your child's vocabulary by copying what they say and adding new words.
- Start to make a story up using the items your child has gathered, encouraging your child to join in. You could start with the words "Once upon a time.....". Try to make the story about something you know your child will be interested in.
- Make the stories short and sweet to keep your child's attention.

How can you take it further?

- Once your child understands what to do, they will be able to contribute more to the story. Always give them time to process and share their ideas. There's no rush!
- Try collecting e.g. only red items or hard items to make the activity more challenging.

Play & talk together
Be careful with too many questions

Pause and wait for your child to respond
Copy what they say and add to it