



Story Stones

Episode 16

Introduction

Learning how to tell a story is an important early literacy skill. Storytelling, or "narrative skills", teaches your child the structure of sentences and narratives as well as improves vocabulary.

Try building your child's narrative skills by making these story stones, a simple prop for a fun storytelling game!



Supplies

- Smooth river rocks
- Mod Podge OR liquid glue
- Paint
- Paintbrushes OR small sponge
- Assorted clipart or stickers (choose images that will make good story ingredients)



Additional Resources

Visit Plano Public Library's official [YouTube channel](#) to view this activity and other Library Make videos

Check out our blog post about this activity at [Plano Library Learns](#)

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Instructions

1. Choose pictures for the story stones: Print out clipart, cut pictures out of old children's magazines and books, or use stickers. If you like you can even paint directly on the stones. Choose pictures that would make fun ingredients for a story: animals or imaginary creatures, strange objects or places, a person in special clothing, and so on.
2. (Optional) Make your own Mod Podge: If you already have liquid glue, there's no need to buy Mod Podge; mix 2 tbsp. glue with 2 tsp. water and stir well. Ka-ching!
3. Stick pictures to the river rocks: Using a paintbrush or a small sponge, put a thin layer of Mod Podge/glue mixture on the back of the picture, then press it to the stone, smoothing out any wrinkles. Dab a thin coat of the glue mixture/Mod Podge over the top and edges of the picture to prevent it from peeling. Once the glue dries, your story stones are done!



Thinly spread Mod Podge on the back of the picture.



Press the picture to the rock, smooth out wrinkles, then dab Mod Podge over top and edges of the picture.

How to Use Your Story Stones

To play with your story stones with your child, put the stones in a box or bag. Pull out a stone at random and begin a story with the picture on the stone. Take turns drawing random stones, adding to the story with each new picture.

Story stones also make a great group activity at kid's parties! Have children sit in a circle and place the story stones in the center with pictures facing down. Start a story, then have the kids take turns picking a random stone and adding its pictured element to the story. Kids will have a great time creating a story together or sharing one with you! Fun times and early literacy—that's a perfect ending.

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