

National Storytelling Week

All About Storytelling

National Storytelling Week is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the power of sharing stories. This year it takes place from **1 February to 9 February 2025**. Storytelling is the activity of sharing stories orally, often with gestures, and is one of humanities oldest traditions. Early humans shared stories as a way of teaching, explaining the world, and passing knowledge on. Storytelling helped these early communities to bond and connect with one another.

Storytelling is powerful, especially for children. It sparks children's imagination, introduces new words and concepts, and supports their understanding of the world around them. Most importantly, just like our ancestors, storytelling fosters attachment and connects us through shared experiences.

To celebrate National Storytelling Week, a daily storytelling activity has been designed to introduce and consolidate mathematical concepts in an exciting and engaging way. On each plan you will find the resources needed, an outline to the activity, ideas for extension opportunities, and a top tip.

Top Tips

To get you started, here are some tips for successful storytelling:

- Find a quiet space with limited distractions to support children's attention and listening
- Storytelling is **with** the child, not **to** them. Support children to engage through encouraging them to make suggestions and copy gestures
- Use different voices for characters; play around with tone, expression and volume
- Have a selection of storytelling props readily available like scarves or puppets
- Practice finger puppetry to add a visual, for example, thumb and index together for a birds beak, or index and middle finger up as rabbit ears
- Repeat stories for children to revisit ideas and find opportunity for participation
- Further support children by including Makaton signs for key mathematical vocabulary like tall, short, big, little and remember to represent numbers 1-10 using your fingers.

