

National Storytelling Week

Wednesday- Craft Characters

Our next activity focuses on number sequence, tagging and cardinal counting. The characters in this story can be decided upon by the children. You could make ten little spiders or ten little tigers or just stick to focusing on numbers one to five for younger children.

Resources:

- Lollipop sticks
- Craft items
- Mark making resources



Activity:

- Use craft materials to make the lollipop characters including numerals 1-5 or 1-10 on the bottom of the stick; one number for each character
- Introduce the lollipop characters to the children. Count them as you go and saying how many there are altogether after counting (cardinal number)
- Explain that the characters are going on an adventure, but some obstacles might get in their way. Each time an obstacle arrives, one of the lollipop character goes. The characters are then counted again and the cardinal number given.

It might look and sound something like this:

“Here are ten little mice all living underneath the floorboards of a huge house. One day, the mice were hungry and decided to look for food. While the mice were searching for crumbs, a big ginger cat saw them and chased one little mouse away (take lollipop character number 10 away). Let’s count how many mice are left. 1..2..3..4..5..6..7..8..9, there are now nine hungry mice left looking for some food.”

- As your story unfolds, one lollipop character disappears in a different way each time. For example, a mouse gets stuck in some honey, or a mouse gets tired and decides to take a nap. Remember to count after each character goes and confirm the cardinal number like so “that’s nine mice left altogether.”





Extension Opportunity:

Craft more lollipop stick characters and leave them around the nursery room to encourage children to tell their own number stories in play.

Top Tip:

Storytelling doesn't need to be a carpet activity. Get up and move around the room or take your lollipop characters outdoors where further inspiration for your story can be found.

