

Story Extension Guide

Each week, the whole class activity focuses on connecting and extending the learning from the story you have chosen.

In this Story Extension Guide, we have included some ideas for activities but of course you will also have your own. The props and materials you choose can be chosen from the story but should offer more opportunities to explore the goal for that week.

You may want to include the children in designing and putting the activity together. It is a good idea to have a mix of indoor and outdoor extension activities during the week.



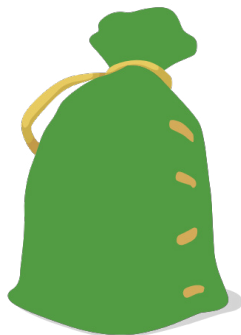
Storysack

A story sack is a collection of items in a bag or container that can be used to support and extend the telling of a story. Children can use the props to retell the story and act out sections of the story.

Look through the pictures in the story book to decide which props you are going to add to your storysack. It's also helpful to identify the key emotional concepts or themes in the book which your props can reinforce.

Props to consider:

- A copy of the story book.
- Small world models/soft toys/dolls/puppets to represent the characters.
- Items to represent important objects/places in the story. For example, if the story is about a character overcoming fear, include a small toy representing the object of their fear.
- Activities or games relating to the story. For example: bingo, matching pairs, or a jigsaw.
- Fabric or large paper to set the scene e.g. blue for the sea.
- Name labels for the characters or signs for locations in the story.
- Materials for children to write or draw and art supplies to create artwork inspired by the stories.
- Integrate sensory materials like textured fabrics, scented items, or calming sensory toys that promote self-regulation and relaxation.
- Make copies of specific pictures from the book to explore the different feelings the characters in the book could be experiencing. Stick the appropriate Feelings Cards (Activity Sheet 1a and 1b) on the thought bubble above that character.
- Include visual aids such as Feelings Cards (Activity Sheet 1a and 1b) or Feelings Faces (Activity Sheet 2a and 2b) that depict a range of emotions. These visuals can assist children in identifying and expressing their own feelings and understanding the emotions experienced by the story's characters.





Role play

Creating a role play area based on a story about emotions can be a powerful way to bring the book's themes to life and support children's understanding of their own emotions. Here is a guide for setting up a role play area inspired by a story about emotions:

- **Create a space:** Choose an inviting area where children can engage in the role play experience. Use soft furnishings, cushions, or rugs to create a comfortable and safe space.
- **Display visuals:** Decorate the role play area with visual elements that represent the emotions from the story. Hang posters, pictures, or illustrations depicting different facial expressions and body language associated with each emotion. These visuals will help children identify and understand various emotions.
- **Provide props and costumes:** Gather a collection of props, costumes, and accessories that represent the emotions in the story. Include items such as masks, hats, puppets, or stuffed animals.
- **Design emotion stations which incorporate sensory elements:** Create different stations within the role play area that correspond to the emotions explored in the story. For example, a calm corner for sadness with relaxing scents, a joyful dance area, an anger-release station. Each station should have props and materials that allow children to express and explore the associated emotion.
- **Encourage role play:** Invite children to engage in role play by taking on the roles of the characters from the story or by creating their own characters and scenarios based on the emotions explored. Encourage them to use the props and costumes to embody and express different emotions during their play.
- **Facilitate reflection and discussion:** Set up opportunities for children to reflect on their role play experiences. Provide materials for them to draw pictures, write stories, or talk about their emotions during or after the role play. Encourage group discussions where children can share their insights, ask questions, and learn from each other's perspectives.

Small World

Gather small world resources that represent the characters, objects, emotions or settings from the story.



- **Set the scene:** Include toy animals, figures, dolls, backdrops or other props that allow children to recreate scenes from the book and explore different emotional expressions. Select figures or dolls that represent the characters from the book. Look for toys with different facial expressions and body postures that convey a range of emotions. Adding 'mini mes' (models of the children) would also be useful to add into the small world.
- **Natural and sensory materials:** Consider incorporating natural materials, such as pebbles or leaves, to further enrich the small world play experience. Think about using sensory materials, such as coloured rice or fabric, to enhance the sensory experience and engagement with the small world play.
- **Mirrors:** Place small mirrors in the small world area to allow children to observe and mimic facial expressions. Mirrors provide an opportunity for self-reflection and help children understand how emotions are displayed on their own faces.

- **Emotional themes:** Include a variety of props and accessories that reflect the book's themes and emotions. For example, if the book explores feelings of happiness, you might include items like party hats, musical instruments, or pretend celebration materials. If the book focuses on sadness, you could include tissues, soft blankets, or comfort objects like stuffed animals.
- **Miniature furniture and objects:** Incorporate small furniture and objects that children can use to create scenes and stories around emotions. This could include tables, chairs, beds, vehicles, or any other items that help set the context for the play and encourage storytelling.
- **Encourage play:** Invite children to recreate scenes from the book using the small world resources. Encourage them to express the emotions they observed in the story through their play. Support children in developing narratives or stories inspired by the book, incorporating their own experiences and emotions.



Puppet Play Area

By providing a dedicated area for puppet play, you can enhance children's understanding and expression of emotions while encouraging creativity and imagination.

- **Create a space:** Choose a designated area within your early years setting, consider a corner of the room or a specific table where the puppet play can take place. Clearly label the area with signs or visuals indicating that it is a puppet play zone focused on exploring emotions.
- **Puppets:** Provide a variety of puppets that represent different emotions, characters from the story, or a mix of both. Include hand puppets, finger puppets, and larger puppets to offer diverse options for play. Puppets can be made from wooden spoons, photos on lolly sticks or empty water bottles.
- **Props:** Include props related to the story, such as miniature houses, trees, or other elements that allow children to recreate scenes from the book. Display the book prominently to spark children's interest and serve as a reference for their play.
- **Puppet play:** Encourage children to retell the story or act out specific scenes using the puppets. Provide open-ended questions or prompts to inspire their imagination and deepen their understanding of the emotions presented in the story. They can modify the plot, change the emotions of the characters, or explore alternative endings. This activity promotes creative thinking and helps children consider different emotional outcomes.

Remember that any of the small group activities can also be included in your enhanced provision. It would be a great opportunity for the children to explain to their friends what they need to do.

