

Learning Resources

EYFS/YEAR 1: Story Play / Oracy / Development Matters

Students enter our Small Worlds gallery to explore a magical land of picture books, nursery rhymes and traditional tales. In a story-building workshop they create their own mini story landscapes and imagine the episodes that could unfold within their enchanting new world.

Outcome: Speaking and listening presentation

The Story Play workshop aligns well with the Oracy Skills Framework and the Development Matters guidance, offering multiple learning opportunities for Reception and Year 1 children. Here's how this session supports children's skills across these frameworks:

Oracy Skills Framework Links

Physical Skills (Voice and Body Language)

The interactive journey into the stars will encourage children to practice projection, clarity, and expression through songs, chants and describing their planet design choices. Joining in with songs and rhymes will support their understanding of body language and gesture.

Linguistic Skills (Vocabulary, Grammar, and Spoken Language features)

Children will be introduced to descriptive language as they discuss their new story planets, expanding their vocabulary (colours, physical features and descriptive words). The rhymes and songs encourage phonological awareness, which will enhance their listening skills and sound differentiation.

Cognitive Skills (Reasoning, Sequencing, and Comprehension)

The activities will require children to sequence actions (e.g. putting on an astronaut's suit) and follow a storyline. They will also develop reasoning skills as they discuss the planet created with their group and what makes it unique, fostering self-expression and perspective-taking.

Social & Emotional Skills (Confidence, Empathy, and Collaboration)

Creating new story planets in small groups will allow children to collaborate, build confidence in speaking to peers, and present their ideas. This promotes social interaction and confidence both within the group and then feeding back ideas to the whole class.

Development Matters Guidance Links (EYFS)

Personal, Social, and Emotional Development (PSED)

The children will hear a traditional oral story that focuses on challenges that need to be faced. Through storytelling, they will explore this together and learn how challenges can be overcome through perseverance and teamwork.

Communication and Language Development

During the story time, the children will practice their listening skills, which may include listening quietly to the story, as well as being asked to join in with actions or repeated refrains. The children will develop and present their story planets in small groups, which allows them to articulate their ideas to others around them.

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Expressive Arts and Design

The development of a story planet will allow children to express their ideas creatively and to explore the colours and textures within the found objects.

Understanding the World

Through traditional oral storytelling, children will be introduced to themes of friendship and cooperation, helping them understand different perspectives and the value of individuality. This links well with goals in understanding communities and the wider world.

Supporting Schools' Learning Goals

For schools, the 'Story Play' session provides an engaging way to build early literacy, social skills, and cultural awareness. By aligning with the Oracy Framework and Development Matters, the session supports children's foundational communication skills, social development, and understanding of the world—core goals in the Reception and Year 1 curriculum.

This combination of storytelling, creative crafting, and role-play offers a comprehensive approach to early learning, helping children develop key skills in a playful, supportive environment at The Story Museum.