

Storytelling with Simple Props



Type: [Reading](#) Skills: [Critical Thinking](#), [Language & Literacy](#), [Play & Creativity](#)

In this activity, you'll learn how to tell a story without books. It's a great activity for adults who have a challenge reading, yet don't want to miss out on the experience of storytelling with their kids.



What We Learn

Kids can learn a lot from a simple storytelling project like this. First, they're developing language – with the repetitive nature of the story the children are learning the words. Next, they're improving their literacy skills by learning the sequence of a story – that it has a beginning, a middle, and an end. Finally, this activity really enhances memory retention – an important skill that will aid in literacy skill development.

Supply List

- 3 Teddy bears (large, medium and small)
- 3 toy chairs (large, medium and small)
- 3 bowls (large, medium and small)
- 3 towels (large, medium and small)

How-To

Prepare for telling the story of "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" by gathering props which will help you dramatize the story. Find three stuffed Teddy bears in three different sizes (large, medium and small) which will serve as the Papa Bear, the Mama Bear and the Baby Bear in the story.

Find props in these three different sizes as well. The main props in the story are bowls, chairs, and beds. For the beds, you can simply use towels to represent the blanket on the bed. You can use a washcloth for the small bed, a hand towel for the medium bed, and a bath towel for the large bed.

If you don't have all these props to tell the story, you can also try drawing out these props on a large poster board which you can point to as you tell the story. Have a row for each of the items, such as the chairs, bowls, and beds with them drawn to the corresponding sizes of large, medium and small.

Begin by telling the story of "Goldilocks and the Three Bears." Start the fairy tale with "Once upon a time . . ." and then make the story your own. You don't have to remember the story exactly word-for-word. It's fine to make up small details. Just be sure to hit the main plot elements that go along with your props, such as "somebody's been sitting in my chair," "somebody's been sleeping in my bed" and "somebody's been eating

porridge out of my bowl.”

Since we’re not using books here, kids will learn how to use their imagination as they visualize the stories in their minds. This helps them repeat the story, as they become close to the story, and feel a part of it.

© 2007 Community Television of Southern California. All rights reserved.