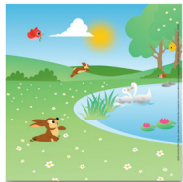


Getting Started

StoryTales | 45005 | Ages 3-6 | For 2-6 children

This Getting Started activity card will help you introduce the StoryTales set to your preschoolers. The activities are designed to familiarize children with the unique elements of the set. After completing some or all of these activities, you can download the Teacher Guide for more in-depth activities.



1. Model using the background cards by telling your own story. You may want to start by choosing a mood for your story: for example, is it a happy story? Is it sad or scary? Then, select an appropriate background card, and add characters and events. Encourage the children to do the same, providing story starters if needed.



2. Ask the children to build a scene showing what they did on the weekend or during a vacation. Then have them describe their scene to a friend.

3. Put some of the special elements in a bag (for example, a crocodile, horse, girl, and boy) and have the children pick one to three elements out of the bag with their eyes closed. Then, invite the children to build a story using the selected elements as the main character(s).



4. Encourage the children to choose a background for a story that takes place in the summer. Ask the children to build a scene showing activities they like to do in the summer. Invite the children to do the same for winter, and then talk about the similarities and differences between the two seasons.



5. Some of the children may build the same story several times. Encourage them to expand their story by adding details. To help, you may ask questions such as, "What time of day does this take place?" "What are the names of your characters?" "How are your characters feeling?"



Learning Objectives

Creating Original Stories:

- Cognitive development – recalling past events
- Language development – developing language related to stories
- Creative development – enhancing imagination and storytelling skills