

Speech and Language Therapy

Sensory Stories

Lesson 6 of 14 on Attention and Listening

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Sensory Stories

Sensory stories involve children in storytelling through the use of sensory activities.

Children are more motivated to attend to a story that has smells and tastes as well as touches, sounds and sights to explore.

Sensory stories create irresistible opportunities for the development of attention and communication skills.



Steps to Success!

1. Choose a story or theme together.

Remember we don't need a book to tell a story!

Make up your own story or talk about a personal event.

2. Summarise it into short interesting sentences.

Keep it simple about 10 for the whole story is ideal.

3. Pick out the keywords - roughly 1 per sentence.

These should be the most important for the story to be told and will usually include the who/what/where/doing words.



Steps to Success!

4. Bring the story to life!

Look around your home for props to represent your keywords. Props can be anything from using the space behind a sofa as a dark cave, or using coffee grains from the kitchen as mucky dirt.

Pound shops and charity shops can be great places to find cheap props too! (Please bear in mind that not all props are allergy-free/safe for children to use without your supervision).

5. Make some noise and movements!

Use sounds, songs, clapping and actions. Encourage the child to join in or make their own sounds and movements.

6. Get creative!

Don't feel that everything has to be literal. Rain could be the noise of your fingers pattering on the table, a water spray, wagging your fingertips to indicate raindrops falling to the ground or a combination of these things. The more clues you give your child to help them understand a word the better.



Top tips

Basic principles:

- Activities should inspire the child's attention
- Activities should be motivating
- Sensory Stories should be a fun shared experience that is worth attending to and communicating about

Role of the Adult:

- o Reduce our language and use ONLY key words
- o Use lots of pauses
- o Vary the tone and volume of your voice
- o Make it exciting and have fun!



Sensory Activities

Actions	Noises	Touch
Signs Gestures Movements	Sounds Songs Tapping Clapping Singing	Rough Smooth Soft Hard Bumpy
Tastes	Smells	Props
Strong flavour Mild flavour Textures Samples	Strong scents Mild scents Smelly pots	Puppets Accessories Anything else!



Example Sensory Story (1)

Walking through the jungle!

1. Sing!

Walking through the jungle, Walking through the jungle, What can I see? What can I see ?

2. I can see a snake, slithering through the trees!

Sensory activity suggestions: bowl of slime, hair gel, noodles, jelly. Snake toys. Stuff tights with tissue paper to scrunch and feel.

3. Sing!

Walking through the jungle, Walking through the jungle, What can I see? What can I see ?

4. I can see the butterflies, fluttering above the trees!

Sensory activity suggestions: Paper Fans fluttering on skin

5. Sing!

Walking through the jungle, Walking through the jungle, What can I see? What can I see ?

6. I can see an elephant, stomping past me!

Sensory activity suggestions: Drum for Elephants stomping, tube for trunk, spray water for trunk

7. Sing!

Walking through the jungle, Walking through the jungle, What can I see? What can I see ?



Example Sensory Story (2)

8. I can see a campfire, crackling next to me!

Sensory activity suggestions: Popping candy, Foil blanket/ foil scrunched up.

9. Sing!

Walking through the jungle, Walking through the jungle, What can I see? What can I see ?

10. I can see the sun shining down on me!

Sensory activity suggestions: Torch, yellow material

11. Sing!

Walking through the jungle, Walking through the jungle, What can I see? What can I see ?

12. I can see a river flowing next to me!

Sensory activity suggestions: Water play, pouring water, blue material

13. Sing!

Walking through the jungle, Walking through the jungle, What can I see? What can I see ?

14. I can see a spider's web, hanging in the trees!

Sensory activity suggestions: Use hands to "tickle" like spiders

Silly string/string.



Recording and Reflecting on Sensory Stories

Use this sheet to record and reflect on your child's attention during attention time.

Date	Activity (How many objects? what were they? How long did you spend with each object?)	Comments

In one sentence, what have you noticed this week?

When I.....,
my child.....



Sensory Stories Diary

Date:

We learnt about

When my adult

I...

Insert picture

