



ST MICHAEL'S HOUSE
HOME TEACHING DEPARTMENT

In association with

KPMG

Presents

MULTI-SENSORY STORIES

Story time is fun for children and families. Multi-Sensory Stories can open up a world of experiences and make listening easier for children with complex needs. These stories give our children the chance to relive events that they have enjoyed, by "listening" with their eyes, ears, nose, mouth, hands and through movement.

Each story is short and each line has a sensory experience to encourage your child to participate. Before telling a story you will need to gather **Props** at home to help bring this story to life through movement, looking, listening, smelling, tasting and touching. You may have some of these around the house and you don't need to spend a lot on the props. Each prop represents what is happening in that line of the story. I suggest keeping each story and props in a labelled shoe box or a special bag. We hope that you enjoy them. Of course, you can write your own story based on your child's favourite things to do, going to the park, feeling the wind on your face, eating strawberries, listening to the birds singing, splashing in the puddles.

How do I read a Multi Sensory story to my child ?

- Familiarise yourself with the story before you read it to your child.
- Gather your props and see how they work. **Props** are highlighted on the storyboard. You can add in your own photos and ideas to personalise the story.
- Choose a quiet time at home to read the story.
- Read each line slowly and present the prop for each line.
- Give your child time to process the sensory experience. This could be longer than you would think 10, 20, 30 seconds but you know your child best. Introduce tastes, smells, sounds and movement gently. Watch your child's facial and body response - if they like it, repeat it. **BUT** if they find this sensory experience difficult, challenging or scary then remove it. Remember we all have different responses to touching, tasting or sound so go gently in this area.
- **When you are reading you can be quiet, be LOUD, be animated and just have fun telling and retelling this story.** You can include other children and story tellers in the family when telling Multi-sensory stories too.
- **If there is a prop that you feel is unsuitable or unsafe for your child, please omit it or use a safe alternative for example if your child has food allergies, oral feeding issues or reacts badly to flashing lights. Always use safe movements for your child.**
- **Stories require adult supervision at all times because of the props.**

Have a look at some of our Multi Sensory Stories from our Library at St Michael's House if you need any help contact Mairead at mairiad.naughton@smh.ie

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This multi-sensory project was initiated and coordinated by Mairead Naughton and Maria Nolan - Home teachers /Library Services at St Michael's House 2013. Sponsored by KPMG.