

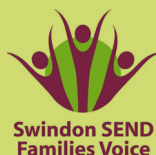


Ways to enjoy stories

With our friends at Swindon SEND Families Voice, we've come up with a range of ways to enjoy stories in all their forms. These activities will help boost reading, speaking, listening and communication skills. They're great fun too!

You can use these ideas at home, out and about, and at your local library. Our local libraries have a range of resources that bring stories to life in different ways.

Created in partnership with



**Swindon
Library &**
Information Service



There are lots of ways to enjoy stories beyond sitting down and reading a book. This could be exploring stories that relate to a hobby or interest, or connecting with stories in our world, about the people and places we know.

Fun ways to explore stories



☐ Family storytelling

Find photos of friends or family and tell the story of those in them. It could be about what's happening in the photo, or a memory about the people or place in it!



☐ Draw, paint or make a model inspired by a story

Think about a character or scene from a story, TV show or film. Then, create a drawing, painting, model (or something else) inspired by it!



☐ Listen to an audiobook

Borrow audiobooks for free with your library card through the Borrowbox app. Search the app on your phone or visit borrowbox.com online to browse.



☐ Read in different places

Choose a new place to enjoy a story – it could be indoors or outside, or maybe somewhere inspired by the book you are reading. This can bring the story to life in a new way.



☐ Use hobbies as hooks!

Pick a topic based on something you love – and learn about it! You could search online blogs or explore non-fiction books from the library. Reading about your interests can make it more exciting.

Ideas to enjoy sensory story time



Borrow a touch and feel book from your local library.

Use words that describe what your child can feel.

Use touch, smell and sound to explore the imagination:

Touch



Put some toys or teddies in a box. Get your child to close their eyes, feel the textures and guess what's inside the box. Encourage them to make up a story about the toys.

Smell



Collect a range of objects. Get your child to close their eyes and hand them different objects one by one. Ask them to smell each one and describe what the smells makes them think of.

Sound



Find some everyday household objects. Make different noises with them. Ask your child to say the first word that springs to mind when they hear each sound.

In the same way that stories don't just exist in books, communication isn't limited to the words we speak.

Try out these fun ways to communicate through sound and movement:

Try movement or yoga



Look up Cosmic Kids Yoga on YouTube and join in with one of their free yoga adventures.

Have a laugh



Enjoy a giggle together by telling jokes. Tell a joke you already know, or why not make up a new one?

Hum, sing or make noise



Hum a tune from your favourite TV show and see if others can guess what it is. Or you could clap, tap or stomp along to the rhythm of a rhyme or poem.

**For more, visit literacytrust.org.uk/Swindon
Or follow us @SwindonLiteracyTrust**