

SENSORY STORIES AND RHYMES

Telling the stories:

- The props and scripts in our resources are very flexible. Feel free to change the scripts or the props to suit the child(ren) you are telling the stories to.
- Remember that listening is as important as speaking when telling the stories. As far as possible every response from your audience should be listened to, celebrated and responded to. There is no need to stick rigidly to the scripts. Adlibbing and making mistakes are all part of the fun!
- Allow plenty of time for the children to look at and/or touch the props. (This is true for everyone but particularly for children with complex additional needs.) You can allow time for this at the end of the story as well.
- If you are telling the story to a group it can sometimes be helpful to have multiple copies of the props. This will mean that the children do not have to wait as the props are passed around. It also means that the rhythm of the story does not get interrupted.
- Everyone loves surprises! Use bags, pockets and baskets to keep your props a secret until they appear in the story.
- Encourage everyone to join in with any repeated phrases or rhymes in the story (including any other adults who are present). This will surround the children with the sounds of the story. If you are telling the story to non-verbal children you could record key phrases/responses on to voice-recorder switches.
- Repetition is very important, particularly for children with complex additional needs. If at all possible tell the same story several times to the same children on different occasions. You can also adapt the stories to tell at different times of year by adding in snow, birdsong and so on.

Information about the stories

All stories in the sensory story and rhyme resources are written and/or adapted by Ailie Finlay from My Kind of Book (mykindofbook.org.uk) in partnership with Scottish Forestry.

The Little Girls & the Stars

This is simplified and adapted from the Brothers Grimm story *The Star Talers* or *The Star Money* which can be found in collections of Grimm fairy tales or online.

Ant and Wolf

The original source for this is a Swiss folktale which can be found (in German) online with the title *Der Fengg und die Ameise*. Originally collected in *Die Sagen Vorarlbergs. Mit Beiträgen aus Liechtenstein*, by Franz Josef Vonbun.

The Troll's Tail

Versions of this story are told all over the world. The word 'Taileypo' comes from a North American version of the folktale which can be found online.

The Douglas Fir Tree and the Wee Mice

This legend is indigenous to the Pacific north-west of Canada and is well known there. My version is based on an oral source: Catriona Gordon.

Henny Penny

This is adapted from a traditional Scottish story. Henny Penny (also known as Chicken Little) can be found in many story collections and online.

The Pigeon and the Wren

This is based on an Irish fable about birds learning to build their nests, but there are many versions of this story told in Britain and Ireland and it is told about a variety of different birds. The most commonly known tale is about magpies and this can be found online.

The Willow Peg

Original story by Ailie Finlay. Legends about willow trees growing from a dropped object are quite common in Scotland. (See, for example, *Flora Celtica* by William Milliken and Sam Bridgewater, Birlinn Books, Edinburgh, 2013, p. 188.)

I Know a Tree

This is very loosely based on a traditional rhyme.

The Little Wooden House in the Woods

Original story by Ailie Finlay loosely based on one of Aesop's fables, *The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse* which can be found in many story collections and online.

Tree on the Hill

This is based on a traditional rhyme.