

Additional/ alternative English activities

Choose a story that your child likes and is familiar with. Read it together and then try some of these activities based around the book. These can be done with any story.

Change of Viewpoint.

The story plot is used as a basis for a retelling but from a new viewpoint. For instance – the 3 pigs is retold from the wolf's point of view or rewritten as a newspaper item. This approach might involve: -

- retelling from a different character's view;
- retelling in a different form (text type) – as a letter, diary entry, newspaper recount.

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Alterations

Try altering characters, e.g. so that a good character becomes greedy or unkind. Maybe a bad character could become good, or was just misunderstood (try reading the selfish giant)!

Alter settings, the place where the story occurs, e.g. so that a character journeys through a housing estate, the land of sweets or under the ground, rather than a forest.

Alter the way the story opens or ends

Alter the events but stick to the basic plot.

Drama

Children pretend to interview one of the characters from the story to get their point of view. Children love to do this with a grown up who goes into character and they enjoy holding a microphone even if its invisible! (Silly voices are always appreciated here!)

Afterwards some possible activities are:

- Writing a newspaper report with a sensational attention-grabbing headline.
- Writing a sorry letter from a character that has not behaved well.
- Creating a wanted poster including an attractive reward.

- Writing a diary entry about the incident e.g. the day I went to Grandma's house.
- Continuing the story – what happened next to the three little pigs or Little Red Riding Hood? Where are they and what are they doing now? Let your imaginations run wild!

Substitutions

This could involve changing names, places, objects or creatures.

Instead of the Gingerbread Man how about a gingerbread cat or bear, change the characters that they meet. Make it silly and fun.

Storywriting

Collect 3 objects from around the house. What could they be? E.g. a plate could be a flying saucer, a pencil becomes a magic wand etc. Choose a character or two – maybe based on friends or family. How would each of them act when faced with a problem?

Your problem is - there is a very small dragon hiding under the bed, no one is sure where it has come from or why it is there.... what will you do?

Create the story together using the items to help you solve the problem.

Above all have fun!