

Sensory Stories Part 1

A simple way to use sensory stories at home is to create sensory baskets or boxes. Your child can explore the items while listening to the story, or wait and explore the items after the story. A few simple items related to the story will help bring the story to life. Where possible use real objects, or something which has similar properties, and you can add other sensory items too. You can also follow up stories to keep the theme going with other sensory activities and craft activities.

Below are a few ideas for some stories. I've also added some follow up activities too. If you don't have the books, search YouTube – all the stories are available to listen to on You Tube.

Elmer's Weather by David McKee

If you have a toy elephant, that's great, but don't worry if you don't. If you want to represent Elmer, a multi coloured scarf or piece of material would do.

Types of weather:

Wind – a fan (electric, battery powered or even home made)

Clouds – cotton wool

Lightning – flash a torch or light on and off

Thunder – a pot and spoon to bang

Fog – a sheet or other similar material over your child's head

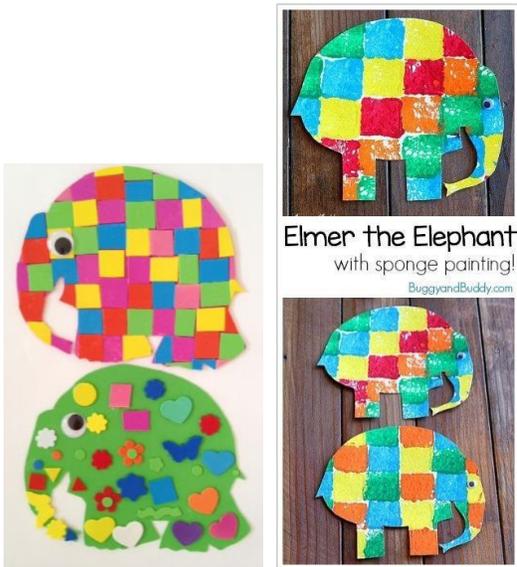
Rain/ puddles – a bowl of water, a water spray if you have one

Snow – ice cubes

You can use all of these or just a few, it's up to you. And if there's something you don't have, swap it for something else. I didn't have cotton wool, but I found a white shower scrunchy, and I couldn't find my torch, so I would just use the torch on my phone instead.



Your child could create their own Elmer the Elephant picture afterwards. There's a template you can print at the end of this document.



Aliens Love Underpants by Claire Freedman and Ben Cort

This can be a very simple story box. You could explore lots of underpants if you want. If you'd rather not use actual pants, then lots of different scarves, pieces of material etc would do – choose different colours, textures and patterns.

You could also add in some alien sound effects or alien toys – search you tube for alien sound effects. I didn't have an alien toy, so I went for the closest things I could find – BB8 from Star Wars!



Your child could create their own alien by printing with paint and bubble wrap, or they could make their own play doh aliens.

BUBBLE WRAP ALIENS



Night Monkey, Day Monkey by Julia Donaldson

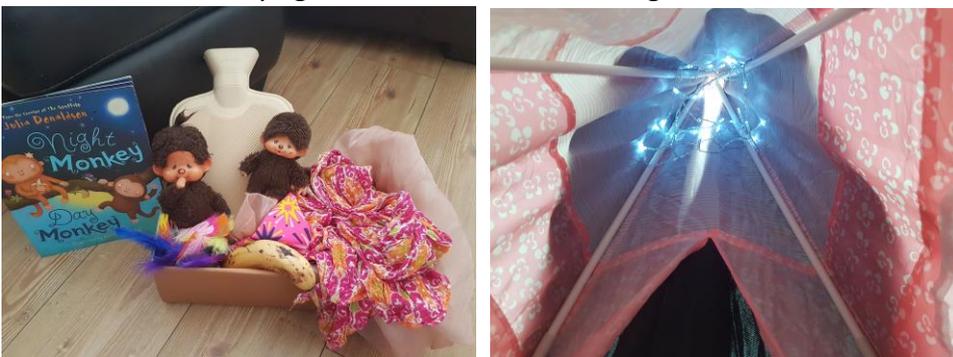
The simplest way to make this story sensory is to focus on the theme of light and dark. The first half of the story takes place at night, the second half takes place during the day. Listen to the first part of the story under a blanket, with a torch for the moon and fairy lights for fireflies. Remove the blanket for the second part of the story, and use the torch to make shadows.

This would be enough but if you want to add anything else, here are some more ideas:

You can add sound effects from You Tube if you want – frogs, monkeys, parrots.

Other sensory items you could add are feathers, a hot water bottle for the sun, coloured material or scarves for butterflies and a banana.

You can use as many or as little as you want. Again, use what you have. My daughter's tent is up so I decided to use that with fairy lights and a black scarf for night time!



What about making some banana bread too!

<https://www.cookingwithmykids.co.uk/easy-banana-bread/>

Hamilton's Hats by Martine Osborne and Axel Scheffler

A very simple story box for Hamilton's Hats is to explore and try on a selections of hats. Any kind of hats you can find – wooly hats, sunhats, paper hats, dressing up hats, helmets etc. Anything you can find.



Your child could make their own hat too.



