

Early Development

# **Sensory Story: Wiggly Worm goes to space!**

Personal Care



# Teacher notes- 'Wiggly Worm goes to space!'

-Learning Intention: To develop social aspects of communication such as turn taking or choice making

1. Get the items for the story ready in advance.
  - If you don't have a particular prop or object feel free to use something different.
2. Tell the story.
  - Read the story in an exciting way, focusing on your learner and allowing moments to pause, listening for when they can communicate and interact with you.



# Teacher notes- 'Wiggly Worm goes to space!'

3. Take photos or videos of your learner's development.
  - Over time this is a great way to assess your learner's engagement with different activities and stimuli.
4. Celebrate your learner's engagement with the activity with a song they enjoy or repeat the theme song.

## Resources needed:

A tray	String
A Camera phone	An Umbrella
Sticky notes	Fairy lights / a torch
A pen	Foil
Balloons	Coloured card
Shaving foam	Two plant pots

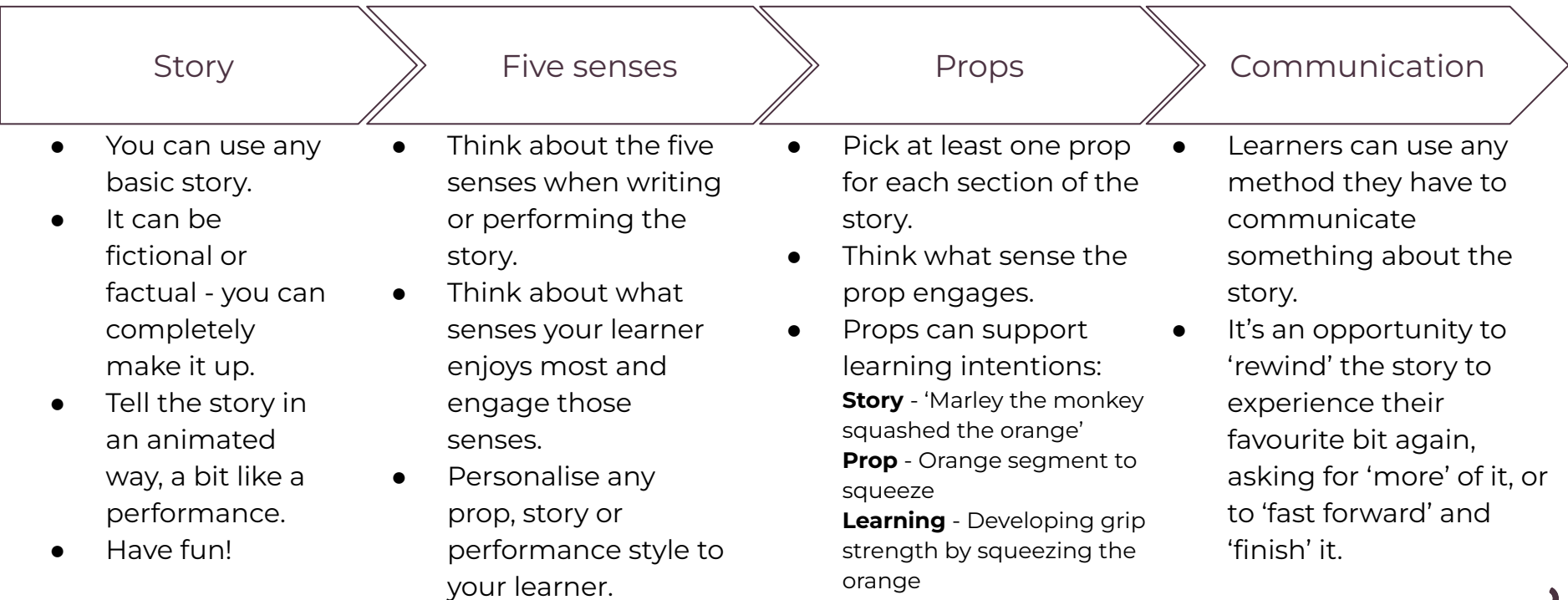


# Lesson stages

1. Read story
2. Explore items
3. Sing
4. Help tidy up



# What is a sensory story?



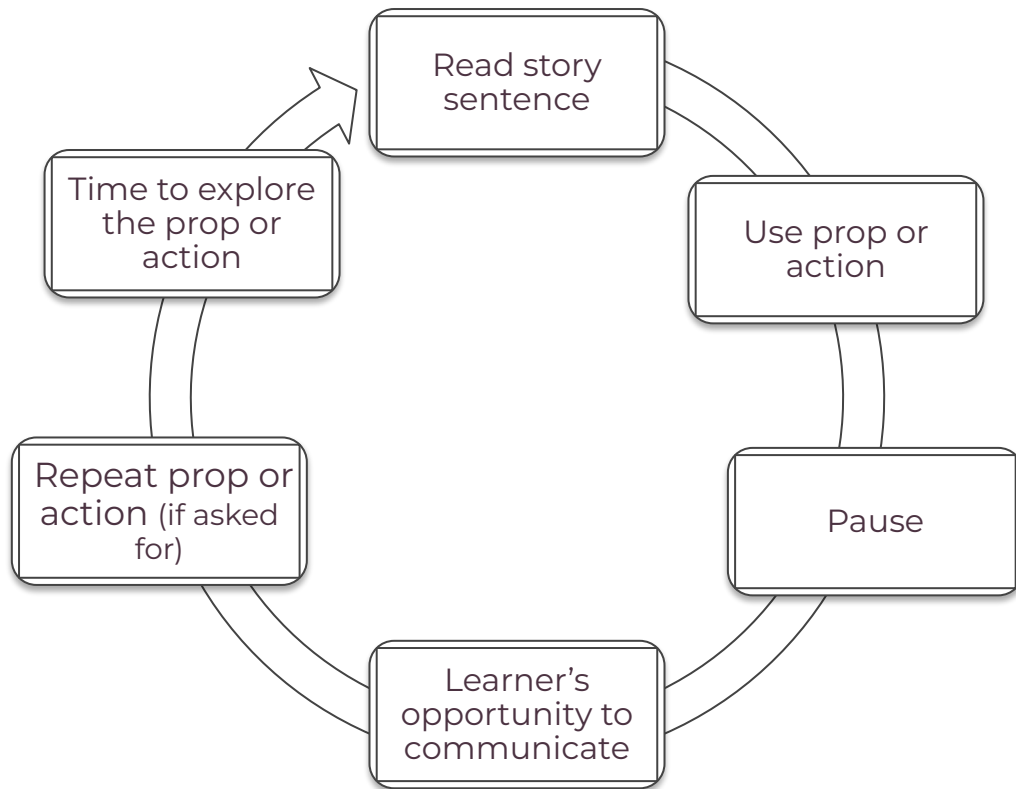
# How to tell a sensory story

- First, read through the story yourself
- Tell your learner that you are going to read a story
- Can you create a before and after experience to give the story context?
- Begin the story with the theme song
- Read each sentence clearly following the script on the slides
- Follow your learners lead - see previous slide
- Let your learner explore the props for as long as they need
- Emphasise each new sentence (using your voice or an instrument)- imagine this is the equivalent of turning a page in a book
- At the end of the story repeat the theme song to end



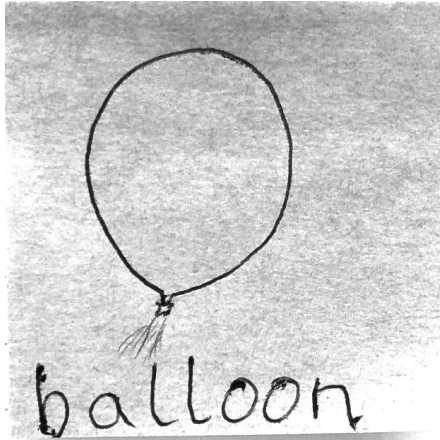
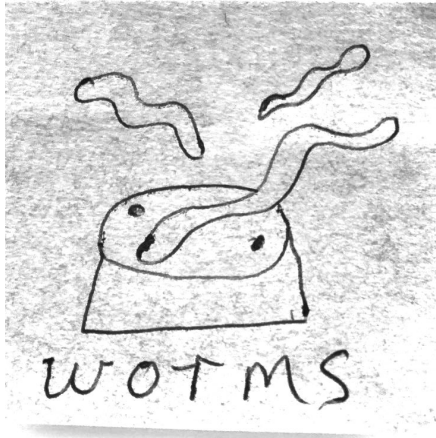
# Promoting Communication

Here are some ideas to consider when developing your learner's communication



# Communication and turn taking

- Prepare these drawn symbols below before you start the story.
  - These are made with sticky notes but you can use any paper / print these / use actual symbols, or your child's communication devices.
  - The symbols can look different to these, as long as they are consistently used to request that same activity. e.g. If they point to or give you the balloon symbol, do the balloon activity, not the 'worms' activity.
- Offer the symbols to someone else or yourself, after your learner has had a turn enjoying one of the activities, to encourage turn taking.





# Song lyrics

## 'Shake Shake Shake'

Shake shake shake,  
Shake, shake, shake,  
Shake the foam,  
Shake the foam!

## 'Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star'

Twinkle, twinkle, little star  
How I wonder what you are  
Up above the world so high  
Like a diamond in the sky  
Twinkle, twinkle little star  
How I wonder what you are

## Well done song!

Well done \_\_\_\_\_! (insert their name)  
Well done \_\_\_\_\_!  
Well done \_\_\_\_\_!  
Well done, for your good work!



# Tell the story: Wiggly Worm goes to space! – Part 1

<u>Story</u>	<u>Actions</u>	<u>Props</u>	<u>Song</u>
<b>One day, at the bottom of the garden there was a strange noise.</b>	<b>Get the shaving foam and shake it, singing ‘shake, shake, shake’. Then squirt onto one of the plant pots.</b>	Shaving foam, 2 plant pots	<b>‘Shake, shake, shake’</b> See lyrics on slide 9. The support video is on slide 12 of the worksheet.
<b>It was Wiggly Worm and his friends who had come out to play! They jumped out to say hello!</b>	<b>Place flower pot on top of the shaving foam carefully. Then quickly push the pot down so the shaving foam ‘worms’ pop out quickly.</b>	Shaving foam, 2 plant pots	See the support video on slide 10 of the worksheet.



## Tell the story: Wiggly Worm goes to space! – Part 2

<u>Story</u>	<u>Actions or props</u>	<u>Props</u>	<u>Song</u>
<b>Wiggly Worm said “I’m going to go to space in a balloon!”</b>	<b>Draw a worm on a balloon.</b>	A pen, balloons	
<b>His friends all watched, with their mouths and eyes open wide.</b>	<b>Open your mouth and eyes wide and see if your learner can copy you.</b>	Just your face!	



# Tell the story: Wiggly Worm goes to space! – Part 3

<u>Story</u>	<u>Actions or props</u>	<u>Props</u>	<u>Song</u>
<b>“Time for the countdown” shouted Wiggly Worm, “5-4-3-2-1, blast off!”.</b>	<b>Blow up the balloon, saying the countdown as you do so, e.g. “5-blow, 4-blow, 3-blow... Until you get to 1 and let go of the balloon.</b>	Balloons	
<b>Wiggly Worm flew up, up, up, into the air and into... space! What can you see in space? Can you see the twinkling stars and shining planets? Can you spot Wiggly Worm?</b>	<b>Have your umbrella pre-prepared:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Attach fairy lights, roll foil and coloured card into balls to make planets and attach them with the string (see the image in the worksheet).</b></li> </ul> <b>Hold the decorated umbrella over the learner’s head. Hide the balloon in the umbrella to see if your learner can find it.</b>	Coloured card, Foil, String, An umbrella, Fairy lights / a torch	



# Tell the story: Wiggly Worm goes to space! – Part 4

<u>Story</u>	<u>Actions or props</u>	<u>Props</u>	<u>Song</u>
Wiggly Worm flew around space but then he started to miss his friends. “It’s okay” he told himself, “I’ll see them soon” and with that he flew all the way back to his garden!	Throw the balloon to where you made the ‘worms’ jump out of the flower pots. Take off some foil and coloured paper from the umbrella.	Foil, Coloured card	
“Wow, where have you been?” asked his friends. “I went to space, but I missed you so much I decided to come home” said Wiggly Worm, “and look, I brought you back some rocks from the moon and planets”. They all smiled, cheered and laid back looking at the twinkling stars in the beautiful night sky.	Show the detached foil and card to the other shaving foam worms, cheer as the worms do in the story and then take the umbrella and lay back with your learner as you hold it above you both singing ‘twinkle, twinkle, little star’.	Your decorated umbrella	<b>‘Twinkle Twinkle’</b> See lyrics on slide 9. The support video is on slide 12 of the worksheet.



# Independent Living

Wiggly Worm goes to space!

## Make it easier

### Sensory box:

Use a shoe box, put in lights, different textures, different scented oils, to create a little sensory world.

### Balloon vibrations:

Play music from your phone or speaker touching a balloon, place this near your child's ear or on their skin, to feel interesting vibrations or the distortion of the sound.

## Make it harder

### Initiate turn-taking:

Can your child offer the activity to another family member after their turn has finished, without you needing to prompt this in any way?

### Change the story:

Using any of the games, can your child change the story, or describe what's happening?

## More ideas

### Different sensory story den:

Use lights or a lamp, or phone light, or torch, with a bed sheet over the back of a chair or table, to make a den with different pictures, smells, textures relating to a different story.

### Relaxing massage:

Thinking about well-being, make a little sticky note & make a 'massage' symbol. See if your child requests a massage, use baby oil or another safe oil.



# References

- Slide 8: Sticky note drawings, Oak National Academy.

