Storytelling is a universal, traditional art form, that has featured strongly in all cultures as an effective communication tool.

Important messages can be so skilfully conveyed through storytelling, as the listener is so entranced by the magic images the storyteller paints before your eyes.

And it is in this way that we as educators of young children can promote their learning.

They can develop:

- An understanding of human nature.
- An understanding of feelings.
- An awareness of the role characteristics people assume.
- An understanding of sequence.
- Language skills (vocabulary, grammar, syntax and pronunciation).
- Their attention span and their ability to listen.
- Their ability to follow instructions.
- Their ability to co-operate with others; and
- An understanding of concepts.

Strategies To Consider When Telling Stories

Young children are unclear about the boundaries between fantasy and reality, and for this reason it is important to make a clear distinction of entering another world before the storytelling begins.

Tell the children that you are going to another place (name it what you like) without leaving the room and that both you and the children will be different people / creatures / characters.

To add to this distinction it can help to have a process to make this journey possible. For example: You may need to ask them to close their eyes and take a few deep breaths, whilst you say some spell, play an instrument, dim the lights or whatever suits your situation.

And then with a snap you are in the world of stories and you can lead your children off on any kind of adventure. Children learn through concrete experiences - so involve the children as much as possible.

Use props (something tangible to add to their belief).
**The Lion and the Mouse**

One day, a mouse ran into a sleeping lion. The lion woke up and caught the mouse. 

"I'm sorry," said the mouse.  
"You look good to eat. I'm going to eat you up," said the lion. He picked the mouse up and was ready to eat him.  
"Please don't eat me. I'm too little for you," said the mouse.  
"I'll help you one day if you let me go."  

The lion laughed.  
"I'll let you go. You are too little for me anyway."  
"Thank you," said the mouse. The lion put the mouse down, and the mouse ran away.  
A few days later, some hunters caught the lion and tied him to a tree.  
"Roar! Roar!" The lion made loud sounds. The mouse heard and ran to the sounds. He saw the lion in a net.

"Thank you! You are little, but what a big help!"  
"I told you I would help you one day," said the mouse. The lion put the mouse on his back and ran into the forest. From that day on, they were the best of friends.
THE LION AND THE MOUSE

CHARACTERS:

NARRATOR 1
READER 1: THE LION
READER 2: THE MOUSE
NARRATOR 2

There is a big lion.
Hello, I'm the big lion.

And a little mouse.
Hi, I'm the little mouse.

They live in the forest.
We live in the forest.

One day, the mouse ran into the sleeping lion.
The lion woke up and caught the mouse.
I was sleeping, but you woke me up.

The lion was angry.

I'm sorry.
The mouse was sorry and scared.
The mouse ran into the lion
The lion caught the mouse.
Hi-ho, the derry-o,
The lion and the mouse.
(Sung to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell.")

Well, I'm a little bit hungry. You look good to eat.
I'm going to eat you up.

The lion was hungry.
He picked up the mouse and was ready to eat him.
Please don't eat me. I'm too little for you.
I'll help you one day if you let me go.

The mouse was too little to eat.
He asked the lion not to eat him.

Ha-ha! Yes, you are little, but how can a little mouse help a big lion?
The lion laughed and laughed.
How can a little mouse help a big lion?

Please! Please let me go!
OK. I'll let you go. You are too little for me anyway.
Thank you! I'll help you one day.

The lion put the mouse down.
And the mouse ran away.

The mouse ran into the lion.
The lion got the mouse.
Hi-ho, the derry-o.
Run away the mouse.
(Sung to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell.")

What can you do? You are too little.
No, I'm not. Look what I can do.

The mouse bit the rope and soon the net broke.
The lion was free.

Thank you! You are little, but what a big help!
I told you I would help you one day.

The lion put the mouse on his back and ran into the forest.
From that day on, they were the best of friends.
We are good friends in the forest.

Friend, friend, we're good friends in the forest.
Help, help, help my friends never rest.
And do my best with what I have.
For my good friends all the best.

Activity  Word Puzzle

Activity  Reading Comprehension

Activity  Reading Comprehension

Activity  Reading Comprehension

I Know the Words

1. Animals live in the _________.
   A. bag
   B. forest
   C. box

2. The baby is sleeping. We don't want her to _________.
   A. catch up
   B. wake up
   C. look up

3. ________ like to catch animals.
   A. Hunters
   B. Teachers
   C. Doctors

4. We use a ________ to catch a butterfly.
   A. net
   B. mouth
   C. hands

5. The lion makes this sound: "___________."
   A. Croak!
   B. Oink!
   C. Roar!

6. The mouse can ________ the rope and then break it.
   A. eat
   B. bite
   C. run
The Lion and the Mouse
Characters
Narrator 1, Narrator 2
Reader 1: The lion
Reader 2: The mouse
Chorus

Narrator 1
There is a big lion
Lion
Hello, I’m the big lion.
Narrator 2
And a little mouse.
Mouse
Hi, I’m the little mouse.
Narrator 1, Narrator 2
They live in the forest.
Lion, Mouse
We live in the forest.
Chorus
A big lion and a little mouse lived in the forest.

Narrator 1
One day, a mouse ran into a sleeping lion.
Narrator 2
The lion woke up and caught the mouse.
Lion
I was sleeping but you woke me up.
Narrator 1
The lion was angry.
Chorus
So angry
Mouse
I’m sorry.
Narrator 2
The mouse was sorry and scared.
Chorus
So scared
All: The mouse ran into the lion.
The lion got the mouse.
Hi-ho, the derry-o
The lion and the mouse.
Lion
Well, I’m a little bit hungry. You look good to eat. I’m going to eat you up.

Narrator 1
The lion was hungry.

Chorus
So hungry

Narrator 2
He picked up the mouse and was ready to eat.

Mouse
Please don’t eat me. I’m too little for you. I’ll help you one day if you let me go.

Narrator 1
The mouse was too little to eat.

Narrator 2
He asked the lion not to eat him.

Lion
Haha! Yes, you are little, but how can a little mouse help a big lion?

Narrator 1
The lion laughed and laughed.

Chorus
Hahaha

Narrator 2
How can a little mouse help a big lion?

Mouse
Please, please let me go!

Lion
OK. I’ll let you go. You are too little for me anyway.

Mouse
Thanks you! I’ll help you one day.

Narrator 1
The lion put the mouse down

Narrator 2
And the mouse ran away.

All: The mouse ran into the lion.
    The lion got the mouse.
    Hi-ho, the derry-o
    Ran away the mouse.

Narrator 1
A few days later, some hunters got the lion

Narrator 2
And tied him to a tree.
Lion
   Roar! Roar!

Chorus
   Roar! Roar!

Narrator 1
   The lion made loud sounds.

Narrator 2
   The mouse heard and ran to the sounds.

Narrator 1, Narrator 2
   He saw the lion in a net.

Mouse
   I’ll help you, my friend.

All
   Not too little to help
   Not too little to help
   Hi-ho, the derry-o
   See how the mouse help

Lion
   What can you do? You are too little.

Mouse
   No, I’m not. Look what I can do.

Narrator 1
   The mouse bit the rope and soon the net broke.

Narrator 2
   The lion was free.

Chorus
   Free, free, free to go
   The lion was free to go

Lion
   Thank you! You are little, but what a big help!

Mouse
   I told you I could help you one day.

Narrator 1
   The lion put the mouse on his back and ran into the forest.

Narrator 1
   From that day, they were the best of friends.

Chorus
   The best of friends

Lion, Mouse
   We are good friends in the forest.
Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Lion, Mouse

We are never too little to help.

All

*Friend, friend, we’re friends in the forest.*
*Help, help, help my friends never rest*
*And do my best with what all I have*
*For my good friends all the best*
I See Sam

New Words
I, see • Special Words (lessons 4 and 8)
Sam • See (lessons 6, 3 and 4)

Plot Summary
In his encyclopedia, Mat the Rat discovers a picture of a real lion and learns many things about lions. Mat sees what a real lion looks like, where he lives and what he eats. Mat is so excited that he wants his friend Sam, who is a lion, to read about the lions too.

Story Questions (Comprehension)
1. page 1: Who is going to read?
2. page 6: What do you think the word on this page is?
3. page 8: From the picture, where do lions live?
4. page 9: Can you tell what lions eat?
5. page 12: Who is reading about lions now?

Each new word throughout the program is repeated at least five times in the book in which it first appears and five more times in the next ten books.

See.

See?
"I see. I see."

"Sam?"

"I see Sam."
“I see.”

“Sam! Sam!”

“Sam! Sam! See Sam!”
“See Sam?”

“I see.

See Sam!”

“I see Sam! I see Sam!”
A Story: What Shall I Be?

One night, my dad says to me, “What do you want to be when you grow up?”

“I don’t know,” I answer. But then I start thinking.

I think in the morning when I wash my face and brush my teeth. I think as I get something to eat. The doorbell rings. I go out. The milkman is at the door. He gives me some milk.

“Maybe I want to be a milkman. Then I can have a big scooter. I will take milk to many people.”

After eating my breakfast, I ride my bike to school. I see the mailman.

“Maybe I want to be a mailman. Then I can carry letters from far away and give them to people.”

I keep riding my bike. Just then a big red fire truck comes by.

“Maybe I want to be a firefighter. Then I can put out big fires.”

Finally, I get to school. I learn a lot from my teachers.

“Maybe I want to be a teacher. Then I can teach boys and girls in school, how to read and write.”

After school my mom drives me to see a doctor. The doctor gives me a check-up.

“Maybe I want to be a doctor, so I can help people stay healthy.”

I walk down the street with my mom. I see an airplane flying in the sky.

“Maybe I want to be a pilot. Then I can fly like a bird, and see places that are far away.”

That night I talk to my dad about what I should be when I grow up.

My father looks at me and says, “You can be anything you want. But first you have to study hard.”

That night I have a dream. I dream that I am flying. As I fly I
see an artist painting a big picture.

"Maybe I want to be an artist. Then I can help make the world more beautiful."

I keep flying. I fly past a truck carrying TVs and computers.

"Maybe I want to be a driver, so I can take things to the stores."

Then I fly past a farm where the farmers are busy planting the fruits and vegetables we eat.

"Maybe I want to be a farmer. Then I can grow lots of things that people can eat."

The sun is starting to shine but I keep on flying. I see a cook making breakfast.

"Maybe I want to be a cook. Then I will cook all my favorite foods."

Working with the cook is a baker. "Maybe I want to be a baker. I can bake all the chocolate cakes I want. But if I eat all the chocolate cakes I bake, then I will have to go to the dentist because my teeth will hurt."

"Maybe I want to be a dentist. Then I can show people how to take care of their teeth. I flew over the dentist office, and saw a flower shop next door."

"Maybe I will be a florist. I like all the pretty flowers in the flower shop."

When I wake up my dad drives me to school.

"Did you think about what you want to be when you grow up?" he asks me.

"Oh, I thought about it," I say. "I thought and thought. There are so many things I can do if I learn how. But there is only one thing I’m sure I want to be."

"What’s that?" asks my dad.

"I want to be a great dad, just like you."