


## THEMES BRAINSTORM FOR STORY N RHYME SESSIONS

Theme	Stories (These stories are all linked to each of the themes. We want to keep adding to this list!)	Songs <i>(Remember you can find and learn many of these songs on YouTube if they are new to you just type them in the search bar then have fun learning them together with the children!)</i>	Activity (A few ideas of short activities you can do linked to the theme)
<b>MINIBEASTS</b>  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Super Worm By Julia Donaldson</li> <li>• The Very Hungry Caterpillar By Eric Carle</li> <li>• Finger wiggly Worms By Felicity Brooks</li> <li>• Greedy Bee By Steve Smallman</li> <li>• The Busy Spider By Eric Carle</li> <li>• Mad About Minibeasts By Giles Andreae</li> <li>• Spinderella By Julia Donaldson</li> <li>• Mad About Minibeasts By Giles Andrews</li> <li>• The Bad-Tempered Ladybird by Eric Carle</li> <li>• Flip Flap Minibeasts By Axel Scheffler</li> <li>• Twist and Hop Minibeast Bop By Tony Mirton</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There's worm at the bottom of my garden song</li> <li>• There's a Tiny Caterpillar on a Leaf song</li> <li>• Insects Oooo Arghhh song (Spiders, spiders oooo arghhh ooooo arghh, spiders spiders all around – <b>repeat</b> -&gt; Spiders Spiders spinning webs all around)</li> <li>• Insy Winsy Spider song</li> <li>• There's a Spider on the floor on the floor song (repest) who could ask for anything more.... Now the spider's on my... <i>(to tune of happy and you know it, change to different places arm, leg, wall, chair...)</i></li> <li>• If you're a ladybird and you know It fly around... <i>Using different insects to the tune of If You're Happy and You Know It.</i></li> <li>• The Ants Go Marching song <i>(The ants go marching one by one hoorah hoorah... the little one stops to suck his thumb...)</i></li> <li>• Rain Rain Go Away Come Again Another Day ... <i>(Using insects - The bumblebees want to play...)</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hiding Minibeasts and telling grown-ups where they are (under, on top of, next to...)</li> <li>• Large paper mark making and leaf rubbings</li> <li>• Playdough insets with pipe cleaner legs...</li> <li>• Looking for insect books around the setting/library.</li> <li>• Pairs game have insects cut in half can the children find their partner and make the full insect.</li> <li>• Moving around like different insects – can you slither like a worm, fly like a bee, curl up really small like a woodlouse...</li> </ul>

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### PIRATES



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Go Go Pirate Boat book (<i>this can be sung to the tune of Row Row Row your boat</i>)</li> <li>• Mermaid By Julia Donaldson</li> <li>• The Pirate Cruncher By Jonny Duddle</li> <li>• Pirate Stew By Lou Carter</li> <li>• Ten Little Pirates By Mike Brownlow</li> <li>• The Pirates Next-door By Jonny Duddle</li> <li>• Pirates in Pyjamas By Caroline Crowe</li> <li>• Pirates Love Underpants By Claire Freedman</li> <li>• The Dinosaur That Pooped a Pirate</li> <li>• The Night Pirates By Peter Harris</li> <li>• Grandad's Island By Benji Davies (local author Walthamstow)</li> <li>• That's Not My Mermaid By Fiona Watt</li> <li>• Sharing a Shell By Julia Donaldson</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We're Going This Way That Way Forwards and Backwards Song</li> <li>• Row Row Row Your Ship/Boat Song</li> <li>• 1,2,3,4,5 Once I caught a Fish Alive</li> <li>• The Pirate on the ship goes OOoo Ooo Arghhh (To the Wheels on the Bus)<br/><i>The parrot on the ship goes squark, the captain on the ship goes Land Ahoy</i></li> <li>• Sea Creatures Oooo Arghhh song (Dolphins, dolphins oooo arghhh ooooo arghh, dolphins, dolphins all around – <b>repeat</b> -&gt; Dolphins dolphins jumping all around...)</li> <li>• The Sailor Went to Sea Song (A sailor went to sea sea sea to see what she could see see see... A seahorse swimming in the sea sea sea, A jellyfish, turtle...)</li> <li>• I Had a Little Turtle His Name Was Tiny Tim song. (You could use bubbles with the children here...)</li> <li>• Baby Shark Song (<i>Baby, mummy, daddy, grandma, grandpa, lets go hunt, run away, safe at last</i>)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making telescopes out of kitchen rolls/loo rolls</li> <li>• Treasure maps with tea bag-stained paper</li> <li>• Finding treasure – hide plastic coins around the setting for children to find they have to use the correct language to describe where it is)</li> <li>• Coin rubbings</li> <li>• Message in a bottles</li> <li>• Rainbow fish on sticks with streamers</li> <li>• Making flags for sandcastles or a pirate ship with paper and lollypop sticks</li> <li>• Paper plate boats – folded in half with a lollypop stick sail/flag.</li> </ul> |
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## THEMES BRAINSTORM FOR STORY N RHYME SESSIONS

### & UNDER THE SEA



- The Rainbow Fish By Marcus Pfister
- Bright Stanley By Matt Buckingham
- Tiddler By Julia Donaldson
- Barry the Fish with Fingers By Sue Hendra
- Commotion in the Ocean By Giles Andrae
- That's Not My Turtle... By Fiona Watt
- A House for Hermit Crab By Eric Carle
- Mister Seahorse By Eric Carle
- Hooray For Fish By Lucy Cousins
- The Snail and The Whale By Julia Donaldson
- Tickly Octopus By Ruth Galloway

- The crabs in the ocean go click click click ... (To the Wheels on the Bus tune) (*sharks chomp, Turtles snap, crabs click, jellyfish wobble wobble wobble, clams open and shut*)
- Five Little Fish went swimming one day over the waves and far away... Mummy fish said glub glub glub glub and there were only 4 little fish in the tub.
- Five Blind Jellyfish, Sitting on a Rock...
- Yellow Submarine Song
- Hole in the Bottom of the Sea Song
- Down in the deep blue sea, down in the deep blue sea, come and take a dive with me...
- Who Took the Cookie from the Cookie Jar? (Seahorse took the cookie from the cookie jar, who me, not me... then who? Crab...)

- Paper plate pirate face, fish, parrots...
- Finding sea creatures and using the correct language to tell grown-ups where they are.
- Make glittery bottles with water and glitter, sequins etc...
- Paper Plate jellyfish or octopus with dangling tentacles.
- Paper Plate Sharks.
- Egg box sea creatures. E.g. Sea turtles using 1 x cardboard egg holder)
- Plastic wallet under the sea sensory bags.

## THEMES BRAINSTORM FOR STORY N RHYME SESSIONS

### SPACE



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whatever Next By Jull Murphy</li> <li>• Zoom Zoom Zoom to the Moon By Pat A Cake</li> <li>• How to Catch A Star By Oliver Jeffers</li> <li>• Aliens Love Underpants By Claire Freedman</li> <li>• The Dinosaur Pooped a Planet By Tom Fletcher and Dougie Poynter</li> <li>• Look Up By Matthew Bryton</li> <li>• Man on the Moon (a day in the life of Bob) By Simon Bartram</li> <li>• Zoom Rocket Zoom By Margaret Mayo</li> <li>• Astro Girl By Ken Wilson-Max</li> <li>• I Took the Moon for a Walk By Carolyn Curtis</li> <li>• Here We Are &amp; Way Back Home By Oliver Jeffers</li> <li>• Red Rocket and Rainbow Jelly By Sue Heap</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zoom Zoom Zoom to the Moon</li> <li>• Teddy Bear Teddy Bear Song (touch your nose, toes...)</li> <li>• 5 Little Men (or friends) in a Flying Saucers (or Five Little Friends using the puppets)</li> <li>• Aliens Oooo Arghhh song (Aliens stomping all around, rockets flying all around, stars twinkling all around..)</li> <li>• Twinkle Twinkle Little Star</li> <li>• One Little, Two Little, Three Little Planets...</li> <li>• Put on your spacesuit we're going to the moon. Climb aboard your rocket ship. We're going to blast off soon. Put on your helmet, strap yourself in tight. Check your controls and instruments. Get ready for the flight. Time for your journey the countdown has begun. Here we go, Get set! 5,4,3,2,1, BLAST OFF!</li> <li>• Outer Space is where I really like to go. I ride inside a spaceship don't you know? I like to travel near the stars. Wave to Jupiter and Mars. Outer space is where I really like to go. <i>(to the tune of If You're Happy and You Know it)</i></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Owl has lost his feathers can you find them? (Feathers hidden around the setting for children to find) They could post them into a box/special bag...</li> <li>• Paper Plate moons (Half moon, full moon...)</li> <li>• Playdough aliens with pipe cleaner arms and legs and googly eyes.</li> <li>• Toilet Roll/tube aliens.</li> <li>• Rockets on lollypop sticks to fly around.</li> <li>• Toilet roll/tube rockets with streamers of paper for the flames.</li> <li>• Lollypop stick stars (6 lollypop sticks stuck together and decorated)</li> <li>• Paper plate alien heads or planets.</li> </ul> |
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## THEMES BRAINSTORM FOR STORY N RHYME SESSIONS

### THE FOREST



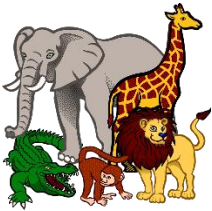
- We're Going On a Leaf Hunt By Steve Metzger
- The Gruffalo By Julia Donaldson
- It's the Bear! By Jez Alborough
- My Friend Bear By Jez Alborough
- Where's My Teddy By Jez Alborough
- Where's Bear By Emily Garrett
- Little Red Riding Hood (many authors)
- The Smartest Giant in Town By Julia Donaldson
- Brown Bear, Brown Bear By Eric Carle
- Stuck By Oliver Jeffers
- Little Acorn By Melanie Joyce
- The Growing Tree By Shel Silverstein
- Owl Babies By Martin Waddell

- Teddy Bear Teddy Bear song (touch your nose, toes...)
- If you're a 'spider and you know it spin a web...' (happy and you know it tune)
- Gruffalo Song (His eyes are orange, his tongue is black...)
- Animals Oooo Arghhh Song
- The leaves on the trees are orange and brown, all over the town. The leaves on the leaves are falling down, the leaves in the wind blow round and round, round and round, the leaves on the ground go crunch, crunch, crunch... (to the tune of The Wheels on the Bus)
- Autumn Leaves are falling down (to the tune of London Bridge)
- There's a Mouse, Where, There on the Stairs...
- The Bear went over the mountain, the bear went over the mountain, the bear went over the mountain to see what she could see. And all that she could see, and all that she could see was the other side of the mountain... (river, forest...)

- Plastic leaves to hide around the setting with minibeasts (use real leaves with an outside area)
- Leaf rubbings or using Leaves for leaf pictures
- Paper Plate or toilet roll/tube Gruffalos, mice, bears...
- Potato shaped paw prints in mud.
- Teddy bears picnic
- Circles to make a bear and attach to a lollipop stick.
- Hand print and footprint trees
- Shredded green and brown paper, twigs, leaves to explore and find things in.

## THEMES BRAINSTORM FOR STORY N RHYME SESSIONS

### The Jungle



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monkey Puzzle By Julia Donaldson</li> <li>• Doing the Animal Bop By Lindsey Gardener</li> <li>• Walking Through the Jungle By Julie Lacome</li> <li>• I Want a Banana By Yasmeen Ismail</li> <li>• That's Not My Monkey, Parrot, Lion... By Fiona Watt</li> <li>• Rumble in the Jungle By Giles Andreae</li> <li>• ABC Animal Rhymes By Giles Andreae</li> <li>• I Love You Little Monkey By Alan Durant</li> <li>• The Monkey With the Bright Blue Bottom By Steve Smallman</li> <li>• Supermarket Zoo By Caryl Hart</li> <li>• Poo in the Zoo By Steve Smallman</li> <li>• Peekaboo with flaps By Child's Play</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Down in the Jungle Song (Down in the jungle where nobody goes...)</li> <li>• Go Bananas Song (Peel, chop, mash, eat, go bananas)</li> <li>• If you're a monkey and you know it swing around (To the tune of <i>If You're Happy and You Know It</i> with different jungle animals)</li> <li>• Walking Through the Jungle What Do you See song.</li> <li>• Lions Oooo Arghhhh song (Lions, Lions oooo arghhh ooooo arghh, lions lions all around – <b>repeat</b> -&gt; Lions Lions roaring all around.</li> <li>• If you want to be a tiger growl out loud, elephant swing your trunk, If you want to be a crocodile go snap snap, giraffe stand up tall, hippo stomp your feet ... (To the tune of <i>If You're Happy and You Know it</i>)</li> <li>• Five Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed</li> <li>• The tigers in the jungle go roar roar roar... (To the tune of The Wheels on the Bus)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have different jungle animals and talk about the smallest and biggest. Can the children order them from small -&gt; Big. Can they find a big animal and a small animal...</li> <li>• Leaf rubbings, making a leaf tree for the jungle.</li> <li>• Using an old branch make a tree and children could make</li> <li>• Hand print animals from the jungle</li> <li>• Paper plate snakes (cut round in a spiral)</li> <li>• Moving around like different animals (slither like a snake, stomp like an elephant...)</li> <li>• Paperchain snakes</li> </ul> |
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## THEMES BRAINSTORM FOR STORY N RHYME SESSIONS

### ON THE FARM



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Squash and a Squeeze</li> <li>• Farm book</li> <li>• The Three Little Pigs</li> <li>• Three Billy Goats Gruff</li> <li>• Splosh duck book</li> <li>• That's Not My Tractor, Horse, Donkey... By Fiona Watt</li> <li>• Maisy's Morning at the Farm By Lucy Cousins</li> <li>• Farmer Duck By Martin Waddell</li> <li>• Who's Hiding on the Farm By Katharine McEwan</li> <li>• Rosie's Walk By Pat Hutchins</li> <li>• Peep Inside the Farm By Olga Demidova</li> <li>• Mrs Wishy Washy's Farm By Joy Cowley</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Old MacDonald Had a Farm (Ducks, Horses, Cows, Pigs, Goats, Sheep...)</li> <li>• If you're a duck and you know it do a quack... <i>(If you're happy and you know it tune)</i></li> <li>• Farm Animals Oooo Arghhh song. (Ducks, Ducks quacking all around...)</li> <li>• Five Little Sucks Went Swimming One Day or Five Little Speckled Frogs</li> <li>• Five Little Pigs Bouncing in the Hay One fell off and lost his way. Mummy pig found the farmer and the farmer did say "No more animals bouncing in the hay"</li> <li>• The ducks on the farm say quack quack quack, the mice on the farm say squeak, squeak squeak... (to the tune of The Wheels on the Bus)</li> <li>• Five Little Chicks tucked in their nest mother hen said its time to rest. One Little chick said cheep cheep cheep. Four little chicks stayed fast asleep... (to the tune of 5 little ducks)</li> <li>• The Farmers in his Den song.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cups and Farm animals – where is the animal? Add coloured dots to the cups to encourage more language...</li> <li>• Finding books with the animals in around the library or in the book corner...</li> <li>• Hand print farm animals. Or paper plate farm animals faces.</li> <li>• Wooden or plastic Spoon farm animals.</li> <li>• Farm animal and tractor shape pictures (cut lots of different shapes for children to find and make pictures with)</li> <li>• Cotton Wool sheep pictures or paper plates.</li> <li>• Junk modelling to make animals and farm vehicles.</li> </ul> |
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## THEMES BRAINSTORM FOR STORY N RHYME SESSIONS

### FEELINGS



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colour Monster By Anna Llenas</li> <li>• Colour Monster Goes to School By Anna Llenas</li> <li>• Mr Men Stories...</li> <li>• Baby Peekaboo/Flap books...</li> <li>• Ruby Finds a Worry By Tom Percival</li> <li>• How Are You Feeling Today? By Molly Potter</li> <li>• The Feelings Book By Todd Parr</li> <li>• The Day The Crayons Quit By Oliver Jeffers</li> <li>• The Way I Feel By Janan Cain</li> <li>• The Big Angry Roar By Jonny Lambert</li> <li>• Hands are Not for Hitting By Martine Agassi</li> <li>• Stuck By Oliver Jeffers</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you're Happy and you Know it, If you're angry and you know it...</li> <li>• Head Shoulders Knees and Toes</li> <li>• Everybody do this do this do this song (with instruments or actions)</li> <li>• Jump Up and Bend Down Song<br/>(Jump Up, bend down and shake your head all around...)</li> <li>• One Little Finger One Little Finger Tap Tap Tap...<br/>(put it on you chin, leg, nose...)</li> <li>• Action Song - Na na na I'm so happy, oh so happy, sing with me (singing Walruses do a version on YouTube)</li> <li>• Shake your Sillies out song</li> <li>• I look in the mirror and what do I see? I see a happy face smiling at me... (Repeat with different emotions)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colour your own colour monster to show how you are feeling today? Can you find anything else the same colour and make a pile of objects?</li> <li>• Mr Men Activity Cards for movement. Move like Mr Silly, Wobble like Mr Wiggle...</li> <li>• Mirrors to pull silly faces in and feelings card. Can you show me in the mirror how you are feeling today</li> <li>• Paper Plates to create feelings faces. Make own colour monsters using paper bags or plates to decorate.</li> <li>• Make a worry tree or tree to celebrate feelings of love... Find an old branch and children could hang feelings faces or decorated leaves for it.</li> </ul> |
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## THEMES BRAINSTORM FOR STORY N RHYME SESSIONS

**Inclusive  
Stories to  
celebrate  
our diverse  
community**



- All Welcome - By Alexandra Penfold
- Kind - By Alison Green
- Shine - By Sarah Asuquo
- We are All Equal - By P Crumble
- Bodies are Cool - By Tyler Feder
- It's Ok to be Different - By Sharon Putil
- The Same But Different Too - By Karl Newson
- What If We Were All The Same? - By CM Harris
- All the Ways to be Smart - By Davina Bell
- We are Together - By Britta Teckentrup
- The Smeds and the Smoos - By Julia Donaldson
- Sharing a Shell - By Julia Donaldson
- Happy in Our Own Skin By Fran Manushkin
- If All The World Were By Joseph Coelho
- Pink is for Boys By Robb Pearlman
- Kind By Axel Scheffler and other illustrators.
- Only One You By Linda Kranz
- The Same But Different By Molly Potter
- My Hair By Hannah Lee
- Who is in My Family – All About Our Families By Robie H Harris
- Love Makes a Family By Sophie Beer
- Welcome to Our World By Moira Butterfield
- Mommy, Mama and Me By Leslea Newman
- The Girl with Two Dads By Mel Elliot

## THEMES BRAINSTORM FOR STORY N RHYME SESSIONS

### Food Stories



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I Don't Want a Banana By Yasmeen Ismail</li> <li>• DAISY Eat Your Peas – By Kes Gray</li> <li>• Burger Boy By Alan Durant</li> <li>• The Runaway Pea By Kjartan Poskitt</li> <li>• SuperTato By Sue Hendra</li> <li>• The Kitchen Disco &amp; The Veg Patch Party By Clare Foges</li> <li>• Oliver's Vegetables By Vivian French</li> <li>• Oliver's Fruit Salad By Vivian French</li> <li>• Handas Surprise By Eileen Browne</li> <li>• Monsters Don't Eat Broccoli By Barbara Jean Hicks</li> <li>• Potato Pet By Josh Lacey</li> <li>• The Runaway Pea By Kjartan Poskitt</li> <li>• Which Food Will You Choose? By Claire Potter.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chop Banana, Chop, Chop Banana Song</li> <li>• I like to Eat, eat, eat Apples and Bananas song</li> <li>• Bananas Bananas on the chair I didn't know that they were there, I didn't know that my .... Mum had got them so when I say down I got a bright yellow bottom. (Chant with different fruits of different colours)</li> <li>• Run and Run and Run and Stop Song to keep moving and healthy. (Hop, Skip, Wiggle, Spin...)</li> <li>• Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes song to keep moving and healthy.</li> <li>• Five Fat Sausages Sizzling in a Pan.</li> <li>• Five Current Buns Song (5 Current buns in the bakers shop round and fat with a cherry on the top along came _____ with a £1 one day...)</li> <li>• Humpty Dumpty Sat on the Wall.</li> <li>• I'm a Little Teapot short and stout...</li> <li>• Who stole the cookie from the cookie jar...</li> <li>• One Potato, Two Potato, Three Potato Four...</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tasting new foods.</li> <li>• Food in feely bowls and blind folds. Can children guess the different foods and describe how they feel.</li> <li>• Playdough making different food. Have tools to roll, chop, squeeze...</li> <li>• Paper plate with favourite foods stuck on.</li> <li>• Hiding different food items around the setting for children to find.</li> <li>• Food in a feely bag describing different shapes, how It feels can children guess what it is.</li> <li>• Finding books around the setting with different foods inside or on the front cover.</li> </ul> |
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## THEMES BRAINSTORM FOR STORY N RHYME SESSIONS

### **Helpful Links when thinking about books for 0-5 Year Olds.**

[Literacy - Help for early years providers - GOV.UK \(education.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/education/government/department/department-for-education/early-years) Access resources, activity ideas and advice for teaching literacy skills to early years children.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/best-books-for-0-5s/>

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/booklists/>

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/reading-lists-for-ks1-school-pupils/100-best-picture-books-to-read-before-you-are-5-years-old/>