



## SENSORY STORIES FOR SURVIVING LOCKDOWN

### **GUIDELINES FOR TELLING THE STORIES**

Each of these stories features everyday events that all children are likely to be able to experience.

The stories can be used in different ways. As you progress through the steps, your child will become more familiar and more able to take a lead in telling the story with you. Then they will own and share their memories of this extraordinary time.

#### **1. Read it as a sensory story TO your child**

Gather all the props together, read the script through slowly, with you doing all the actions and words

Allow the child lots of time to enjoy each part of the story – don't rush

Leave spaces for the child to join in, copy what you do or say.

#### **2. Make the story your own**

Act this story out for real... Make sure that it is YOUR story by including the elements that are personal to you.

Each story has a section which you can personalise and change.

Don't forget – the best stories have something a tiny bit surprising

Don't forget – the best stories have lots of feelings to share.

#### **3. Tell it together...**

Leave gaps for your child to join in when, where and how they can

Tell it to someone else – another person in the family, or someone you are in touch with remotely

If your child likes the story and enjoys joining in – keep telling it!

#### **4. Next chapter**

Ideas for developing a new story using this as a basis

The best stories can be made into books or films.



## SENSORY STORIES FOR SURVIVING LOCKDOWN

### **ADAPTING STORIES FOR DIFFERENT DISABILITIES**

You will know best how to engage your child in the story you choose to tell. Here are some things we have found useful

#### **Visual impairment/blindness**

Emphasise sound effects rather than visuals as a sequence in the stories

Support the child to feel body movements and actions

When signing, allow the child to hold your wrists, or put their hands over yours

#### **Physical disabilities**

For children who are not mobile, change physical actions in the stories for ones they can do themselves

Support them to feel actions and movements - eg. Moving their feet for footsteps,

#### **Hearing impairment/ Deafness**

Encourage them to make a sound themselves, eg with an instrument

Help them to feel the vibrations of low frequency sounds

Make sure the room is quiet for playing the sound

Emphasise rhythm - eg the beats of repeated sounds

*Further information*

<https://www.ndcs.org.uk/our-services/services-for-professionals/deaf-friendly-youth-activities/making-music-deaf-friendly/>

#### **Using Signs**

Many children with special needs are using signs – British Sign Language, Makaton or Signalong. We are hoping to provide some examples of the signs used in the stories. Meanwhile you can find them online

<https://www.signbsl.com/>

<https://www.british-sign.co.uk/british-sign-language/dictionary/>



## SENSORY STORIES FOR SURVIVING LOCKDOWN

There are three organisations using signs alongside speech in the UK and Ireland. They have made many resources available and you may find online training as well

The Makaton Charity      <https://www.makaton.org/>

Signalong      <http://www.signalong.org.uk/>

Lámh      <https://www.lamh.org/> <http://www.signalong.org.uk>