

Telling the Story

So you are telling the story.

Telling the story is probably the most important part of your programme. That is because you are sharing God's Word and all the other parts of the programme will be built around that theme. Sharing God's Word is central because we are helping the children to understand God's Word and something about who He is.

So here are some things to keep in mind.

Be clear

Stories to be told to a group should have a simple structure and not too many characters. Set the scene but keep details to a minimum. You do not want it to be too fussy. Aim to begin and finish strongly.

Be visual

We live in a visual age. Children remember more of what they see **and** hear than what they hear alone. If you can have them **do** something in the story as well that is even better! Whilst visual aids enhance a story, the greatest visual aid we possess is the one we carry around all the time with us – our bodies. Use from the top of your head to the tips of your toes. Appropriate movement and gesture will help bring our story to life.

Be expressive

Think about how your story sounds, think pace, think emphasis, think characters. Stories work best when children can identify with the characters in them. One way to do this is to use different voices for different characters in your story.

Be interactive

Story telling is a shared experience. Think eye contact. Think questions – bridge questions, knowledge-based questions, attention grabbers, character response questions. Think sound effects – getting children listen out for and respond every time they hear certain key words. Pay attention to how it's going and if you're losing them, make your main points and wrap it up!

So much of Jesus' teaching was story based because He knew that was the best way that we learn. That's the way God made us to be. And one more thing to keep in mind if you are the one telling to story - practice, practice, practice!