show me a STORY

40 Craft Projects and Activities to Spark Children’s Storytelling

ACTIVITY KIT

EMILY K. NEUBURGER
Three Ways to Ignite the Imagination!

With these three activities from the book *Show Me a Story*, kids learn to tell stories created from their own experiences and imaginary worlds. With just a few readily available craft supplies and a little guidance from you, kids will enjoy hours of fun building their stories to share with others.

**ACTIVITIES**

*Story-Disk Chain*

*Memory Cards*

*1, 2, 3 Scribble & Tell*

**CRAFTING MATERIALS NEEDED**

*Twine for the Story-Disk Chain*

*Glue Sticks*

*Card Stock*

*Scissors*

*Hole Punch*

*Pencils or Markers*

*Scraps of Colored Paper*
AGEs
To make: 5+ (with an adult)
To use: 3+

PLAYERS
1+

MATERIALS
➤ colored card stock
➤ scissors
➤ thin black art marker
➤ hole punch
➤ thin cord or twine

HOW TO MAKE
1. Print the downloadable circle template onto colored card stock and cut out, or cut circles out of discarded cardboard boxes set aside for this use.

2. Have kids draw images of people, places, things, animals, emotions, or numbers onto the circles using black markers. Encourage children to keep the images simple.

3. Use a hole punch to make two holes on opposite sides of each disk or on the top and bottom for vertical garlands.

4. Sort the disks and create a group that works together nicely as a story. Cut the cord into short lengths and tie the images together in a chain. Take care not to tie the knots too tightly or they may rip the cardstock.

STORY IDEAS
» Make themed chains and tell stories about anything from holidays and birthdays to pets and fanciful creatures.

» Make a “perfect day” chain that documents, in order, everything that would happen on an idyllic day.

» Hang the chain and have kids tell stories using the images in the order they are hanging. (For younger children, this may be too challenging.)

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**Memory Cards**

**HOW TO MAKE**

1. Print the downloadable square template onto card stock and cut out shapes.

2. Help each child select a memory he or she would like to retell.

3. Have each child describe five visual details from that memory.

4. Give five squares to each child.

5. To make a collage for each of the five details, have the children cut shapes from scrap paper using different colors, patterns, and textures. Use the glue sticks to attach collage pieces to the squares.

**STORY IDEAS**

» Have the group shuffle all their cards together and build stories from scratch using the images they pick from the deck.

» Use the activity to help children recall a memory from a favorite summer vacation.

» Have children shuffle the cards and then arrange them in the correct order while telling the story of that memory.

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**AGES**

*To make: 5+*

*To use: 3+*

**PLAYERS**

1+

**MATERIALS**

➤ scissors
➤ card stock
➤ colorful scrap paper
➤ glue sticks

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HOW TO DO IT

1. Seat players at a table with art markers, crayons, or colored pencils and a short stack of scrap paper.

2. The leader begins the game by saying, “One, two, three, scribble.” When the children hear the word, “Scribble,” they begin drawing random scribbles. After a few seconds, the leader says “Stop,” and the players must put down their crayons.

3. Players examine the scribbles on their papers, looking for imaginary creatures, places, faces, or scenes in the random lines and curves.

4. Next, they use their markers, crayons, or colored pencils to add lines and color so the scribbles begin to depict part of a story, still ensuring that the original scribble remains significant.

5. Once their drawings are complete, players take turns sharing them with the group.

other neat ideas

➤ Give players in 1, 2, 3 Scribble & Tell the same photocopied scribble (in the template section of this kit), and ask them to turn it into some aspect of a story. Compare creations at the end.

➤ Players can write a short story based on their scribble creation.

➤ As a challenge, give the players a theme or topic for their creations.
## Templates for Memory Cards

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Other Storey Titles Children Will Enjoy

_Catch the Wind, Harness the Sun_, by Michael J. Caduto.
22 super-charged science projects for kids ages 8 to 12. Education doesn’t get more fun than this — kids will love these exciting activities and experiments focused on producing and playing with renewable energy.

_Nature’s Art Box_, by Laura C. Martin.
Cool projects for crafty kids to make with natural materials.

_Reycled Crafts Box_, by Laura C. Martin.
40 great craft projects using materials straight from the recycling bin.

_Sewing School_, by Amie Petronis Plumley and Andria Lisle.
A how-to-sew book for ages five and up. Featuring 21 inspired projects, _Sewing School_ shows kids how to create fabric masterpieces with minimal supervision.
144 pages. Paper with concealed wire-o and patterns.

_Sewing School 2_, by Amie Petronis Plumley and Andria Lisle.
For kids who have mastered hand sewing, machine sewing opens up exciting new possibilities! 20 creative projects children 7 and up can make as they develop their machine sewing skills. Includes plenty of photos and step-by-step instructions written in kid-friendly language.
160 pages. Paper with concealed wire-o and patterns.

_Trash-to-Treasure Papermaking_, by Arnold E. Grummer.
Dozens of fabulous techniques and projects to transform any paper at hand — from wrapping paper to junk mail — into beautiful handmade paper.

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