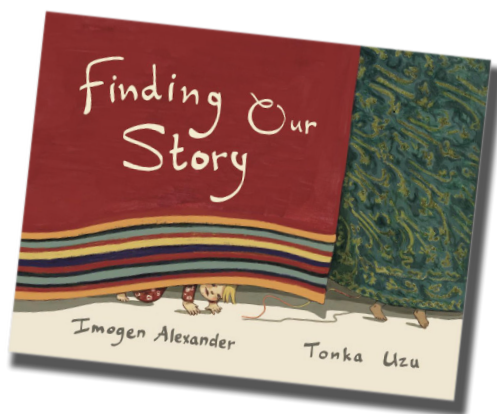


I'm off to find a story! Who wants to come with me?

Finding Our Story is a book about the adventures of a group of children as they set off on a journey to discover a story.

These adventures start with what's right in front of them and grow **bigger and bigger** as their imaginations fire up.

Join them in finding your own stories together as a family using these playful activity ideas.



*All you need...
are a few basic materials
that you can find at home
or in the park.*



There is no right or wrong way to do these activities. Pick and choose what works for you, and let your children take the lead following what is most fun for your family.

#FestivalofStories

<https://bit.ly/FestivalofStories>

The activities are aimed at 3-5 year olds, with suggested adjustments for 1-2 years, but you can adapt them all for any ages!

Finding Our Story was written as part of a project with Cambridge families led by Kettle's Yard art gallery and The Red Hen Project charity. **Kettle's Yard** is a free art gallery in Cambridge. You can find out more at www.kettlesyard.co.uk - or come and visit us - it's completely free!



KETTLE'S YARD House and Gallery

THE RED HEN
PROJECT

50

things to do

before you're

five



You'll find lots of related activities in the app **50 Things to do Before You're Five**. This free app has simple low or no-cost ideas to help parents support their children to develop the skills, language and resilience needed in school and throughout life.

<https://bit.ly/camb50t>.

Setting up a *Finding Our Story* Activity or Story Trail

These cards offer a series of activities for families to do together inspired by *Finding Our Story*, a book that celebrates everyday story-making. The activities are flexible, low cost or free, and can be adapted for any family or setting.

Each activity could take a family five minutes, or could last a whole day!

You might want to consider...

- Having the cards available somewhere visible for families to pick up and do themselves, either in your setting or to take home
- Setting up specific activity stations in your setting, with a print-out of the card and a selection of the suggested materials at each station
- Adapting the activities to make connections with the opportunities and environment of your particular setting
- Having a festival day where you invite lots of families to come and take part in the activities on site. You could use as many or as few of the activities as suits your particular setting
- Starting or finishing this day with a shared reading of *Finding Our Story*
- Setting up rugs and blankets in a story circle where families can settle down together with their favourite books
- If you model taking part in the activities first, this can help parents feel more confident in trying the activities with their children
- Some families may ask for a bit of support or encouragement to get started, whilst others might prefer to explore independently
- Offering free or subsidised copies of *Finding Our Story* for families to take home

To order copies please see www.shop.kettlesyard.co.uk, or send an email to learning@kettlesyard.cam.ac.uk.

Printing

There are eleven 2-page PDF files containing 10 Activity Cards and one Introductory Card in A5 size (this is half a standard A4 page most printers use).

Please print them in actual size, double-sided and in colour whenever possible for best results.

Once printed, you could cut out each card from the A4 sheet of paper. The cards have rounded corners, so that they can be laminated and handled safely by very young children.

You could also print the documents one-sided and stick them back to back. The cards could also be printed in black & white (grayscale), and should also work sized up to A4 format. They could, of course, also be viewed on screen.

Finding Our Story was made to celebrate the project *Story Space*, a partnership between Kettle's Yard and The Red Hen Project, funded by Talking Together in Cambridgeshire.

In summer 2021, families met each week to share creative journeys inspired by stories and art led by artist Kate Corlett. Together, they explored themes from Sutapa Biswas's artwork, along with objects from Kettle's Yard, through looking, talking, reading, art-making and multi-sensory play.

The characters in this book are based on real children and families who let their imaginations take them on wonderful adventures. We hope it will inspire others to do the same – why not start at Kettle's Yard gallery and see where it takes you?

Find out more about Kettle's Yard at www.kettlesyard.co.uk



KETTLE'S YARD

House and Gallery

Sometimes stories hide in things

If you just stop and look

Hunt out little things and see what treasures you can find in everyday objects, either from around the house or out in the park.

Can you sort them in different ways? Can you put them in patterns, or make a display on a window sill?

You could use:

- *Anything that might be a treasure!*
- *Inside objects could include:*
scarves, spoons, large buttons,
favourite toys
- *Outside objects*
could include:
leaves, twigs,
flowers, pebbles,
shells
- *A box, bag or basket*
to put them in



For children aged 1-2, it's great to collect a range of things for them that use all the senses. Can you find something to touch, smell, taste, make a sound, and look at?



50
things to do

before you're
five

You can find more ideas in
Treasure Time on the
50 Things App.

<https://bit.ly/camb50t>.

Scan me!



Let's pull a new story down from the clouds

Look with new eyes! Look up at the sky, and down at the ground. Look at things closely and look at things far far away. What can you notice?

Can you make a shape with your fingers and look through it? Try using see-through or reflective objects from home to find your favourite way of looking!



You could use:

- *A mirror*
- *A glass of water (with a bit of help not to spill it!)*
- *A pair of sunglasses*
- *A spoon*

1-2 year olds might like games of peepo and hiding behind their hands, and using the mirror to see their reflection.



50
things to do

five
before you're
too old

Try looking up Grass Gazing on the
50 Things App for more ideas!

[https://bit.ly/camb50t.](https://bit.ly/camb50t)

Scan me!



Maybe the story is hiding in here...

Build a den together! This could be inside using cushions and sheets or cardboard boxes, or outside in the park.

Dens can be magical places to read stories in, or to come up with your own!



You could use...

- *Cushions*
- *Sheets and blankets laid over chairs or tables*
- *Cardboard boxes with a door or window cut out*
- *Pegs to hold up fabric*
- *Clothes airers, mops or brooms to drape things over*
- *Branches and leaves*

1-2 year olds will need some help in building the den, but might enjoy being able to play inside one – and especially being able to hide and pop out!



There are even more ideas about den-building in Home from Home on the 50 Things App.

<https://bit.ly/camb50t>.



The plot has been thick and the characters brave...



Dress up as a character in a book – or an imaginary creature! How would your character move? What sounds would they make? Put some music on and dance like that character!

You could use:

- *Any bits and pieces of clothing (from anyone in the family!)*
- *Blankets, sheets or tablecloths*
- *Card from cereal boxes or packaging to make a mask*
- *Paper and sellotape to make a crown or hat*



Your 1-2 year old might have all sorts of ideas about how to wear clothes – even putting pants on their head! Have fun with them as they explore the feeling of different fabrics and textures.



50
things to do
with your 1-2 year old
five
before you're

There are lots of ideas of things for children to dress up with in Dressing Up on the 50 Things App.

<https://bit.ly/camb50t>.

Scan me!



Let's fly across the world to follow words and songs and rhyme



Close your eyes and imagine you are on a flying carpet taking you to new lands. Where are you going? What can you see? Who is coming with you? What will you do there? And how will you get home again? Talk together about your adventures – and listen to your child's stories!



You could use:

- *A rug, towel, cushion or blanket*
- *A picnic blanket, coat or tree trunk if outdoors*

For 1-2 year olds, you could act out flying together, making sounds and gestures of what flying might be like, and what adventures you might go on.



For ideas of songs and rhymes to share with your child check out Rhyme Time on the *50 Things App*.

<https://bit.ly/camb50t>.



Stories lead you down a trail Of twists and turns and wild adventures...

Make a path of twists and turns for someone else to follow. Can you leave a signal for a future traveller? Can you draw a map of your path?



You could use...

- *Stones, sticks or breadcrumbs if you're outside*
- *Scarves, string, or pictures of arrows if you're inside*
- *Pen and paper to draw a map*



1-2 year olds, might enjoy walking along a line, loop or spiral that someone has laid out for them.



50
things to do

before you're
five

Find out how Making Connections can support your child's development on the *50 Things App*.

<https://bit.ly/camb50t>.

Scan me!



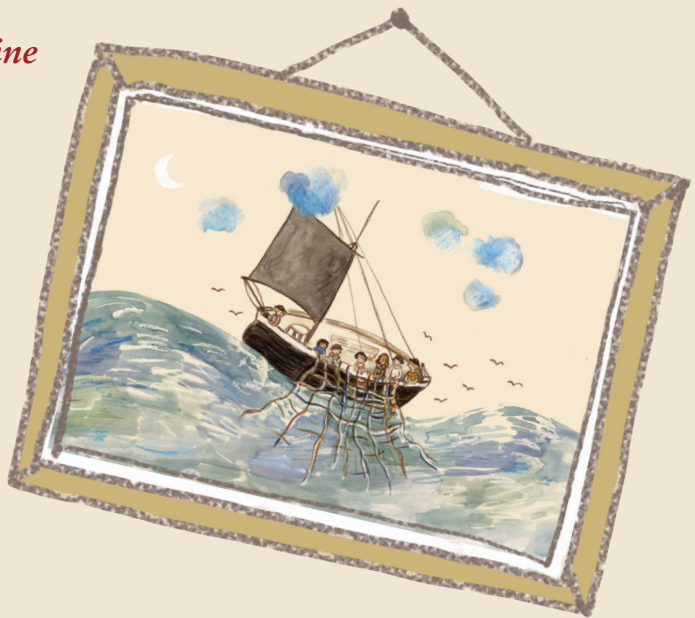
Let's find a tale that's been told in a painting

Look at a picture together. Imagine you are in that picture. What can you see and hear? What does it feel like to be there?

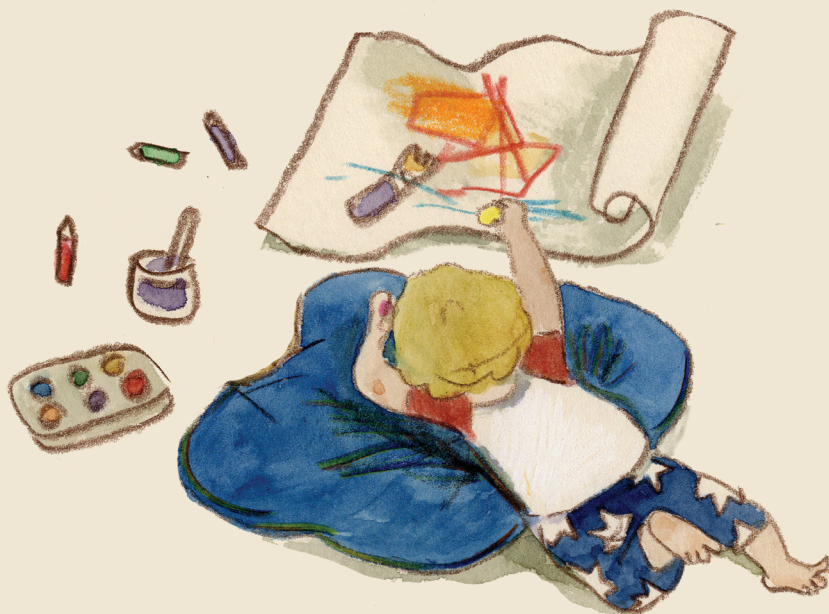
Talk about these things together by asking questions, and building on what your child has said.

You could use...

- *A children's book*
- *A magazine*
- *A leaflet*
- *A poster*
- *A website*



For 1-2 year olds, you could try pointing at some of the things in the picture and naming them – e.g. “Cat! Grey cat! Jumping cat!” See what your child is interested in looking at, and start there.



Cambridgeshire is full of free art galleries where you can look at lots of paintings together. Why not start at Kettle’s Yard, and see if you can recognise anything from these cards? Find more suggestions of places to visit in the local links section of Mini Artists.

50
things to do
before you're
five

<https://bit.ly/camb50t>.



Maybe our story is under the sea...

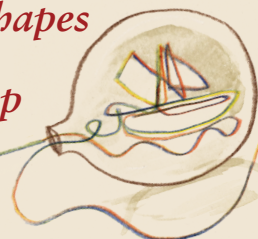
Make an ocean in a jar!

Find some sea-side inspired objects and pop them in a clean, empty jam jar. Top up your jam jar with water and tighten the lid. You can now shake your jam jar to watch the fish swim about!

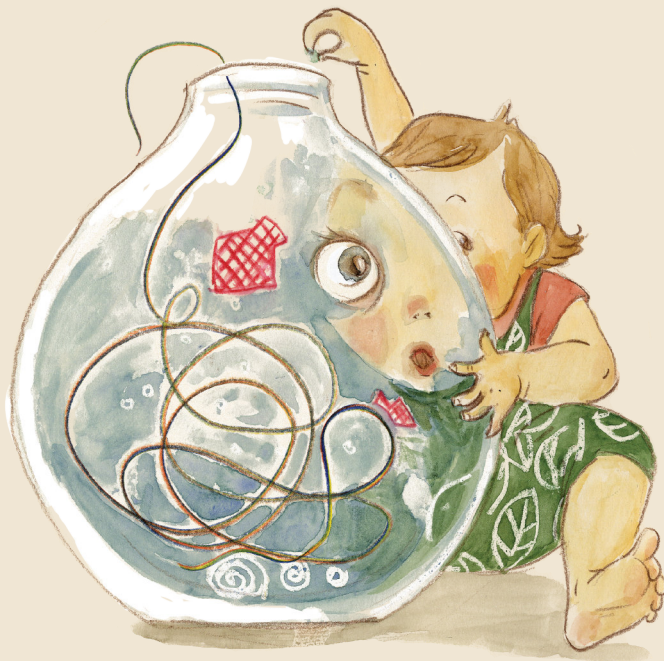


You could use...

- *A clean jam or sauce jar with a screw-tight lid*
- *Pebbles, shells or sand*
- *Some string or thread for sea weed*
- *Tin foil or fabric to cut into fishy shapes*
- *Bubble wrap*
- *Beads*
- *Optional: tape to secure the lid even more*



1-2 year olds will need some help with picking the objects, but might really enjoy shaking the jar and helping pour in the water.



The local links section of **Squidgy Sand** has lots of suggestions of places children can play in the sand somewhere locally.

If you can manage a bigger trip, why not plan an outing to the seaside itself? Find out how this could support your child's de elopment in Sea and Sand.

[https://bit.ly/camb50t.](https://bit.ly/camb50t)

50
things to do
before you're
five



Let's find Once Upon a Time

Make your own book full of the adventures you've been on together. You can make a simple book by folding paper in half and tying string around the fold. Or you could make two holes with a hole punch and tie a ribbon through the holes.



You could use drawing, writing or both! Can your child act out their story and perform it to you?

You could use...

- *Paper*
- *Holepunch (or adults could make the hole with scissors)*
- *Ribbon or string*



For 1-2 year olds, tell the story of the day you've shared together. You could also build up a scrap book where you stick in memories of things you've done together. This could include anything from a leaf to a shopping receipt!



50
things to do

five
before you're
halfway there

Why not make a book about important things for you and your child? For more ideas My Secret Treasures on the *50 Things App*.

<https://bit.ly/camb50t>

Scan me!



Sometimes stories live in books...

Head to your local library and find 2 or 3 books that your little one likes best.

Use your imaginations to combine characters, places and words from your favourite books into something completely new. The sillier, the better!



You could use...

- *Some library books*
- *A library card if you want to take them home*
- *Paper and pencils to draw or write your stories on*



For children aged 1-2, don't feel like you have to read all of the book, or work from beginning to end! Spend time on the pages that your child enjoys, and feel free to move between books. Encourage your child to pick the books that they are drawn to, even if it means reading the same story again and again!



You can find more ideas in Sharing Stories in the *50 Things App*.

<https://bit.ly/camb50t>.

