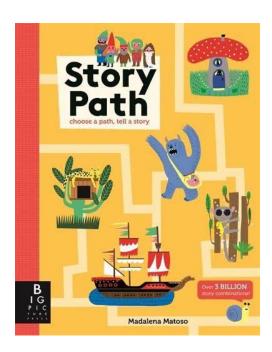


Dialogic 'Story Path'

Unlike storytelling in the traditional sense, dialogic reading is interactive with a focus on encouraging the child to become the active storyteller; the adult scaffolds, supporting understanding and enjoyment. The child takes ownership and as practitioners it is our role simply to guide, through discussion and summarising. For the staff and children at ACE Nursery School, Cambridge, dialogic reading is the pedagogical tool that keeps on giving and we choose a different book to explore termly. Our most recent book, 'Story Path' by Kate Baker, has been magical. The tale begins, "Once upon a time there lived a...." and where you go after that is up to you. Working individually or in small groups we encouraged the children to tap into their imaginations using the bold and quirky illustrations, by Madalena Matoso, to create their own characters, settings and plots with each turn of the page. Staff offered simple prompts such as, "Where will you go?" or "Who will you meet?" when needed. The children soon became adept at the process and quickly began producing their own illustrations while their stories became more and more elaborate and wildly funny! We even super-sized our own 'Story Path' on a giant piece of paper for a dynamic group time activity. Interactive engagement with books – like the one suggested above - stimulates a love of literature, extends vocabulary and enhances communication as well as language skills. We suggest you give it a go...where will your story path lead you?



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