



I Want a Bedtime Story!

by Tony Ross

Suggested Activity :

A story-telling activity

This activity is intended to help foster creative thinking, encourage a love of reading and promote self-confidence.

At the end of this book we see the little princess discover the love of reading. Though she hesitates at first, unsure of her reading ability, she soon devours the many different stories that the palace library has to offer:

"...She liked the shiny cover, she liked the colourful pictures, she liked turning the pages and working out the secrets of the words".

Set out a table or a blanket on the floor with a range of different picture books; use stories they have already heard in your group, traditional stories they may have heard elsewhere (such as Goldilocks, Little Red Riding Hood, etc) and stories that they are unlikely to have heard before. Make sure the books are not too long and that they are well illustrated. Explain to the children that you are pretending that you are in the palace library and that they are little princes and princesses looking for their bedtime story. Give them time to explore the books individually, then circulate and encourage them to tell you the stories in their own words. Encourage them to use the illustrations to help them, and to bring their own experiences into the story (for example, they might name a character after their best friend, or the setting may be in a place that the child enjoys visiting). If you have time, invite the children one by one to share their stories with the rest of the group. If the child seems stuck, you can help by asking questions to encourage them to develop their story (*Who is that? What is his/her name? What are they doing? Where are they? How are they feeling and why?*) Make sure to boost the children's self-confidence by showing that you are enjoying listening to their story and by offering lots of praise.