

## Story Sacks



National Share-a-Story-Month 2026

Story sacks are a wonderful way to make a story sharing session immersive and engaging. Reading aloud combines with storytelling and role play. The idea is to gather together a simple collection of props that can be used to develop the story in imaginative ways, making it a wraparound experience for the audience. It works especially well with young children. It can help to develop language and communication skills and will nurture a love of stories.

### How to make and use a story sack

1. Choose a story that you love and that will appeal to the interests of your audience – and buy a copy of it, new or secondhand. The examples given below are all based on ***Donut Touch*** by Seb Davey and Alex Willmore.
2. Gather together some items that will help with the story telling and encourage children to visualise the story more clearly and think about it more carefully. You don't need to spend too much money: things from the recycling bin or the charity shop work fine (so long as you clean them if you need to!). Put them all with a copy of the book into a bag or an old pillowcase. You might add a non-fiction book to deepen the children's background knowledge.
3. Before you introduce the story sack, practise reading the story aloud yourself. Decide when you will bring out each of the props you have gathered together.
4. As you read the story, pull the props out of the sack. If you were reading ***Donut Touch*** from our booklist, you might include a dinosaur puppet or soft toy to 'be' Mikey, some plastic donuts and a plate. If you can find any extra dinosaurs, they can say hello one by one as Mikey realises it's good to share. You might even include a recipe for donuts - and maybe for some healthier snacks too.
5. Extend the story by encouraging the children to ask questions and role play. Mikey might ask them whether they like to share. They might ask Mikey why he didn't want to share at first and why he changed his mind. Asking Mikey whether there is anything else he enjoys eating could be a great way to introduce a discussion about healthy food choices.
6. When the story is over, allow the children to play with the story sack themselves. They may want to retell the story or make up a sequel.
7. You could organise a new learning experience inspired by the book. For *Donut Touch*, perhaps you and the children could ice and decorate donuts for a special tea party – or even make some healthier snacks to offer Mikey.
8. Most of all, have fun!