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Multi-Sensory Story Resource



Marco the Macaw and the Hidden Treasure



Stories help us to make sense of the world. They are all around us, in our everyday lives, in everyday events, and in our personal lives too.

The land we live on stretches back into the mists of time and is full of myths, legends, folktales, fairytales and magic. The sharing of these stories connect us as human beings.

Through story we learn about ourselves, each other, our communities, other cultures, the natural world, and the environment. The experience of telling and sharing stories allows us to explore places and situations we might never be able to visit.

For people with profound and multiple learning disabilities, experiencing the world through multi-sensory stories is a way of opening the world a little for them to enable and support opportunities for exploration of new experiences.

A sensory rich story can be created for individuals and groups in the way that's best for them. Stories can be told through dance, drama, music, art, poetry or one to one with sensory objects identified as enabling the person to engage with the story.

Stories can be created to prepare someone for a significant or sensitive event in their life, or for groups.

There is no one way to tell a multi-sensory story. It depends what you want to achieve with the story and what the occasion is for telling and sharing the story. Adapting to the situation and the audience in the moment helps to make the experience as memorable and exciting as possible.

Creating a story together and drawing the audience into the story, making them feel a part of the story also enhances the experience and helps people connect in their own way with the story

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Marco the Macaw and the Hidden Treasure

This story was designed to support the rainforest exhibition at Kelvingrove Museum in Glasgow. The story incorporates elements from the exhibition, including the destruction of the rainforest. It can be used as a stand-alone story or as an introduction to further study of the rainforest, through multi-sensory story and creative activity.

This resource contains:

- A story script**
- A video telling of the story**
- Ideas for creating sensory stimuli to support engagement and interaction with the story.**

We hope the story and accompanying ideas inspire you to create more multi-sensory stories to support people with profound and multiple learning disabilities to enjoy exploring the rainforest

Introduction to the story

This multi-sensory story blends storytelling with a multi-sensory experience to create a multi-sensory story that enables people with profound and multiple learning disabilities to access and enjoy an introduction to the Amazon Rainforest, while having fun.

The story is intended as a template and framework for you to adapt to suit the people you support.

The stimuli used in the story can be adapted and changed or created alongside those who access the story, enabling them to have an active role in helping to create the story.



Setting the scene to begin the story.

Create a story space for your telling of the story.

This could be anything from a fully decorated rainforest room to a quiet corner where the story could be experienced either individually, or in a group. Both are very different experiences but both equally valuable experiences.

You can begin by welcoming people into the group. This could be done by singing a welcome song or playing relevant music to settle everyone. The use of the voice to create an atmosphere of mystery and intrigue will capture the attention of the person or group you are supporting as you begin the story.

It is always hot and steamy in the Amazon rainforest.

The tops of the tall trees form a canopy where lots of brightly coloured parrots live. Marco the Macaw was one of those parrots (introduce Marco here) and as he sat on the branch of the tree he longed for adventure.

He had heard stories about lost treasure, and he wished he could go on an adventure to find it...





Legend said that there was a treasure chest buried in the singing Kapok tree. He remembered hearing an old storyteller tell the tale of whoever hears the whistling wind of the tree, will find the treasure.

(Show gold coins and treasure in a box and blow into the pan pipes, wooden flute, or simply make a whistling sound with your voice)

Marco woke one morning and decided to go and look for the treasure. He spread his beautiful wings and soared high into the sky

(Toy puppet, home-made puppet, or some coloured feathers to feel and tickle)

Soon he left the canopy and saw the winding Amazon River stretching far below him. He followed the river for some time. He had heard that following the river until he reached the mango trees was the first part of his journey to find the treasure. He heard the beautiful song of the river as it flowed through the land.

(A Koshi bell is used in the video for this story, but you can use any sound or even your voice to create the song of the river)

Marco flew down into the branches of a mango tree and tried hard to remember what the old storyteller had said. Suddenly the words came to him. Shake the branch and when the mango falls, and splits open you will find your way. Marco shook the branch, and he shook it again and again. Finally, a mango fell to the ground and burst open.

(Cut open a mango and let people smell the mango)

Marco flew down and as he landed beside the mango a snake appeared from the floor of the forest. "You must follow the river until you hear the monkey call", the snake said.

(Hiss like a snake and let people feel the snake. You can create your own snake, it can be a paper snake, a material snake, or any type of snake you wish to make.)

Marco didn't know what the snake meant but he flapped his big wings and flew high above the river once more.

(Use your arms to flap or use your feathers if you have them)

He followed the song of the river again as it twisted and turned through the forest.

(Play the koshi bells or whatever instrument or song you are using)

Eventually Marco stopped as he was sure he saw a monkey jumping through the trees. Then he heard a monkey call and he looked around.

The monkey signalled to him to follow.

Marco followed the monkey as he jumped through the trees. Eventually they reached the giant Kapok tree.

The monkey disappeared.

(Show the monkey then make him disappear and appear again from behind the chair or bed etc)

Marco sat in the branches of the tree. He tried to remember what the old storyteller had told him. He looked around the tree, but he didn't see a treasure chest. In the distance he saw smoke and fires. They were burning the forest and Marco was sad. He'd seen the men and their machines cutting down the forest before. For a moment he forgot about the treasure.

(Smoke and fire can be created if you have sage or incense to burn but if you don't feel comfortable burning incense for health and safety reasons, then just make a sad face for this bit of the story)

Just then Marco heard a strange sound. That was it, that was the sound of the whistling Kapok tree. Marco felt excited. He was unsure what would happen next. The sound continued.

(Blow the pan pipes or make whatever sound you have for the whistling Kapok tree)

Then he heard another sound

(Shake the nut shaker or whatever you want to use to signify a change in sound)

Then the tree spoke.

"Look around my roots and you will find a box".

Marco looked around and as he watched, a box appeared from the ground. He opened the box and his eyes lit up. He saw gold coins and precious jewels. He lifted them to the light, and they shone in the sun.

(Open the box of treasure)

In the bottom of the box Marco saw some old papers. As he lifted them the air filled with all the stories of the rainforest. The old storyteller stood there before him.

(Tear up some little pieces of paper or use your hands to indicate stories floating in the air)

"Marco you must take the stories of the forest to the people and tell them the stories of the Kapok tree, the animals, the river and the plants. You need to tell them before it's too late. Take the box of treasure Marco and spread the stories of the rainforest so the world can know. The future of the forest lies with you now".

Marco looked over at the smoke-filled air, at the snake, the monkey and the mango and he knew his journey was only beginning as now his story had joined the story of the forest.

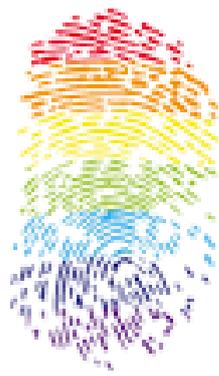
(Show the snake, the monkey and the mango and You can use your hands to indicate the stories of the forest rose into the air, you don't have to use old bits of paper)

He flew back over the river and as he flew, he heard the song of the river once more.

(Play the Koshi bells or whatever you have for the sound of the river).

The End





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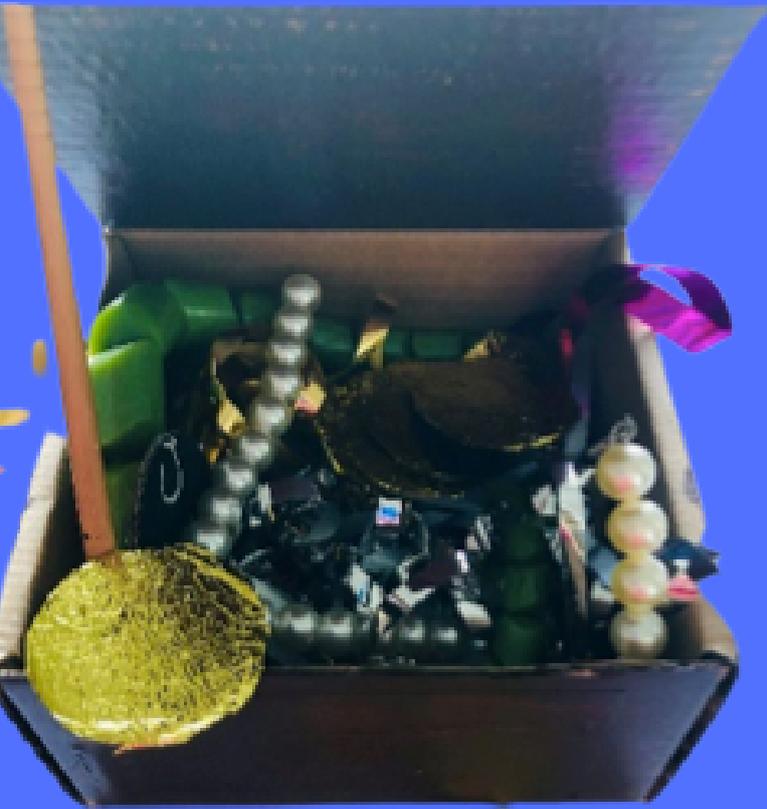


Marco the Macaw and the Hidden Treasure



Ingredients

- Small Cardboard box;
- circles of card / recycled cereal packets;
- glue;
- gold foil or gold paint;
- paints to decorate;
- scissors;
- paintbrush



Treasure Box

Method

For the treasure box, decorate the outside your cardboard box in your favourite colours.

Alternatively, you can tear up coloured tissue paper and stick this on the outer part of the box using glue.

For the gold coins, cut out circles of card.

Cover in glue and stick on gold foil. Or paint the card discs with gold paint.

****Remember: small beads could be a choke hazard***



Panpipes

Method

Gather a handful of straws- at least 6-8.

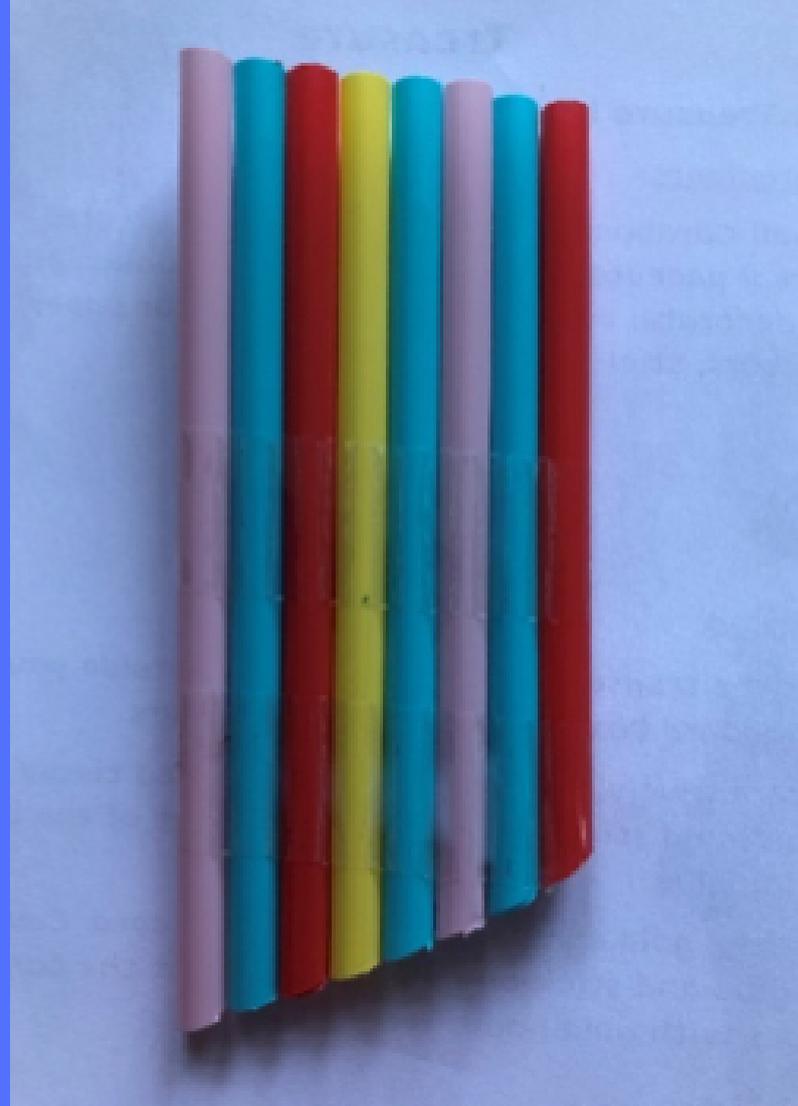
Lay them on a flat surface and, using sticky tape, attach them to each other

Cut them into graduating heights- going from long to short.

Check there are no sharp edges on the plastic straws before placing close to your mouth.

To play- blow across the top of the straight end of the straws.

**The cut end could be sharp and could stick into your lip.*



Ingredients

- colourful straws (plastic or paper)
- scissors
- sticky tape

Ingredients

- Oven gloves or mitt
- mixture of feathers (colourful ones would look great)!
- Sticky tape
- Scissors

Marco's Wings

Method

Gather up your materials.

Put strips of sticky tape onto the oven glove- sticky side facing upwards.

Choose your feathers.

Stick them onto the tape.



A Koshi Bell

Method

Take your card tube and decorate the outside of it.

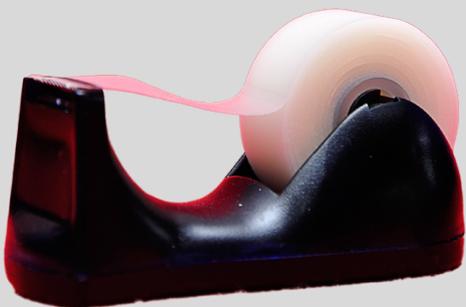
Add colour, shapes and patterns.

Cut about 5 pieces of string of different lengths.

Attach a small bell to the end of each length of string. Make a knot at the end of the string to stop the bell falling off.

Attach the lengths of string inside the tube using sticky tape.

Now give it a jingle- you can add more pieces of string and bells for a louder sound.



Ingredients

- A pringle tube or empty toilet roll
- selection of small bells
- lengths of string or cord
- scissors
- sticky tape
- colouring materials to decorate your cardboard tube.

Ingredients

- Piece of sturdy card-section of cardboard box or cereal packet
- scissors
- glue
- “mango” coloured paints- yellow; orange
- paintbrushes
- optional - dried mango



A Mango

Method

Carefully cut out a mango shape from the cardboard.

Paint the card with yellow and orange paint.

Allow to dry.

Smear the surface with glue. (See additional information for edible glue recipe)

Stick on the dried mango slices.

Feel and smell your very own mango!



The Snake

Method

Take your card tube and decorate the outside of it.

Add colour, shapes and patterns.

Cut about 5 pieces of string of different lengths.

Attach a small bell to the end of each length of string. Make a knot at the end of the string to stop the bell falling off.

Attach the lengths of string inside the tube using sticky tape.

Now give it a jingle- you can add more pieces of string and bells for a louder sound.



Ingredients

- Paper plate
- scissors
- green; yellow; brown paints or pens
- paintbrush
- red paper for the forked tongue
- sticky tape



Ingredients

- A large piece of card or paper, or paper plate
- scissors
- pencil for drawing
- brown paint or colouring pens
- glue
- optional-brown fabric or fur
- wooden spoon
- sticky tape



The Monkey

Method

Gather your equipment.

Draw a monkey face on the card or paper.

Colour it in or add your fabric or fur.

Cut it out.

Attach the wooden spoon to the back using sticky tape of the monkey face in order to make him appear and disappear from behind a chair.



A sad face

Method

Taking your paper plate, draw two eyes; and a sad mouth.

Stick on the pipe cleaner over your sad mouth shape- this will give a raised surface to feel.

Colour the paper plate face in any way you like.



Ingredients

- A paper plate
- felt pens to add facial features
- pipe cleaner
- glue or sticky tape

Ingredients

- 8 -10 Plastic milk/juice bottle lids/buttons-any colour or size
- string
- scissors
- a wooden spoon or chopstick
- sticky tape



A nut shaker

Method

Gather your equipment.

Carefully make a hole through the centre of your plastic bottle lids.

Thread string through each of these, securing with a knot.

Tie them to your wooden spoon or chopstick.

Secure using sticky tape.



Storybook pages

Method

Cut out some rectangles from your book, magazine or newspaper.

Attach some string or ribbon to each page you use.

Connect the loose pages to the stick or chopstick using sticky tape.

Now you can wave the stick around and it will look as though the story pages are floating.



Ingredients

- An old book; magazine or newspaper
- scissors
- a stick from the garden or a chopstick
- string or ribbon
- sticky tape



Additional information

Just a few health and safety points:

- ***Always use non-toxic paints- if in doubt why not make your own “edible” paint:-***

Mix ½ cup flour; 1 cup water; ¼ tsp salt; food colours; cold water for thinning.

Combine flour, salt and 1 cup of water in a saucepan.

Heat flour/water while whisking. The mix will look clumpy, then smooth, then thicken to a paste.

Once it has become thick remove from heat.

Whisk in cold water a few tablespoons at a time until you are happy with thickness.

Colour your mix with food colour.

Allow to cool completely.

Then use like usual paint!

- ***When making your “Mango” remember the small pieces of dried mango can be stuck on using edible glue- which is icing sugar and a few drops of water mixed together. You may prefer to use larger pieces of dried mango and these are available in supermarkets.***

- ***Be aware of the risk involved when using small ingredients, scissors and glue.***