**STORYTIME BASICS WORKSHOP SUMMARY HANDOUT**

**Books**

* Choose books that are large and brightly illustrated
* Choose books that have fairly brief text
* Choose books that have engaging storylines
* Choose books that invite participation, repetition, singing along
* Guessing stories and lift the flap stories are appealing and engaging
* Some folktales (not fairy tales) are adapted well for preschool-aged children
* Do longer stories first and more interactive, simple stories last in case kids get tired**.**

**Songs and Rhymes**

* Choose a fun and easy opening & closing song to repeat each time
* Choose developmentally appropriate hand and finger rhymes, nothing too hard
* Choose some fingerplays that tie into something in the books you use

**Puppets, Felt Stories, and Other Visual Aids**

* Choose materials that go with rhymes/stories that you like, you will use them often
* Choose materials that are versatile, you can use them for many rhymes
* Use storytime resources and books to learn how to make your own simple puppets
* Look for bargains on fingerpuppets, puppets, and other toys
* Look at internet sites/youtube for poems and rhymes that go with the puppets you have
* Felt stories are easy and cheap to make (see ECE subject guide)
* Simple & cumulative felt stories are best to make it easy to tell on the felt board
* Songs are easy and great to do on feltboard
* Copy pictures from books, use patterns in storytime resource books, or draw your own
* Sharpie markers, scissors, glue and felt are all you need!

**Preparing Your Space**

* Encourage children to sit on the floor directly in front of you, flat down on their bottoms.
* Adult caregivers sit with children.
* Felt board should already be up
* Storytime materials should be stored out of reach of little hands, in a box or bag next to your seat
* If you want to, have a CD playing live music or sing before storytime (during cleanup)

**Running Your Program**

* **Take charge;** Be confident and firm
* Lead confidently from step to step telling group what you are going to do next
* Repeat your fingerplays and rhymes at least twice if they are very short ones
* Remind and redirect about appropriate behaviour as needed, as gently as possible, and without singling anyone out
* Encourage participation and engagement by asking questions when telling a story
* Encourage participation in the stories and rhymes by pausing and asking the children to “say it with me” or “let’s ALL sing!”
* **Engage:** Make eye contact, move your gaze around the whole group, and smile a lot!
* **HAVE FUN!!**