**How to Guide: Sensory Stories**

1. **Before you start:** Check the items in the sensory story box – make sure you’ve got everything and it all works. Read through the sensory story script and make sure you know which items are used at each stage of the story.
2. **Time to share the story:** Make eye contact with your student and tell them it is story time (with word/ sign/ picture/ symbol). If possible move to a quieter area with fewer distractions.
3. Read the sentence(s) on the story script and **use only these words**.

1. **Present the sensory stimulus** to your student, then give them time to explore. Don’t be tempted to use lots of language to prompt or comment on what they are doing. If needed, a single comment using the word in bold on the script is enough. We are trying to encourage them to focus on the sensory input not the language and it’s easy to hijack their processing by using too many words.
2. If sharing with more than one person, repeat the sentence, then present the stimulus to the next person.
3. Remember to give your student as much time as they want to explore the stimulus – this could be 2 seconds or 3 minutes! Don’t press them to explore more than they want to – accept that they have tried and refused, then move on. Equally, try not to rush them into finishing before they are ready.
4. When you/they are ready for the next stimulus, collect in the objects before moving on.
5. **At the end** of the story, make eye contact and tell them that story time is finished (with word/sign/picture/ symbol).
6. **Useful signs:**

   

story next what where

   

look listen touch smell

   

taste more ready finish