

Why Flannel Board Stories? -

Flannel board stories are a wonderful way to tell stories to young children for many reasons. They help to hold the children's attention in a group story time, they are a nice change from reading books, and they can be easily adapted to your curriculum. Simple flannel stories with lots of repetition are another way to help children learn language and vocabulary, and will often hold their attention better than a book. If you have children from a variety of home languages, flannel stories will help them learn English. The flannel pieces can be easily manipulated by the children to retell the stories later.

Always let your children play with the story pieces afterward. If you are concerned about damage or pieces getting lost, you can make two sets of each story: one for your story time and one for the children to use in pairs or small groups. The children will be increasing language and vocabulary, developing fine motor skills, improving memory skills, developing their imagination, and learning about cooperation.

Nursery rhymes and fairy tales are particularly well suited to flannel stories. Some of the most popular ones I've used in classrooms are: *The Three Little Pigs*, *The Three Bears*, *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, *Humpty Dumpty*, *Hey Diddle Diddle*, and *Jack Be Nimble*. I've had up to seven different home languages in my classroom at one time, and I've found that these classic rhymes and stories have a universal appeal to all children. You can also create flannel pieces using simple folk tales from around the world to reflect the cultural diversity in your classroom or home.

