



# Guide to Storytelling

## What is the role of story telling in Waldorf?

- ┌ They are the perfect form of delivering lessons, information and values
- ┌ Children are able to live into the stories in such a way that they can be transformative
- ┌ Stories reach the feeling life of the child
- ┌ The whole curriculum of the Waldorf school is based upon the art of telling a good story

## Creating Your Own Stories

- ┌ Realize that the stories you create are some of the most powerful
- ┌ If you are insecure about making up your own begin with a simple bedtime story
- ┌ You could even create a story that continues on through several nights or even weeks
- ┌ Pedagogical stories are very powerful: You take an issue and create a story where the characters are disguised in some way, where they can work through an issue
- ┌ Ideas for stories can be found everywhere: outside your window, situations that happened during the day, characters your child loves, animals, things that happened to you as a child or just something fun

## How do I choose a story?

- ┌ Be clear on what is developmentally appropriate
- ┌ Have a sense of the overview of what you are teaching in a main lesson block
- ┌ Find stories that not only match your intended curriculum, but that also touch your heart and soul
- ┌ Notice if the story lends itself to further activities
- ┌ Think about what issues or struggles your child is having and match the story to their situation
- ┌ Do you want this to be a recurring story that you can add on to or a one-time tale.

## The Presentation

- ┌ Be expressive, but let the story speak for itself
- ┌ Vary the tempo, intonation and timing as a way to create drama and engage the children
- ┌ Have the pictures in mind as you are telling the story
- ┌ Use all the senses: see the colors, smell the roses, feel the temperature of the air, hear the sounds
- ┌ Try not to give them the conclusion: describe and let them come to their own conclusions
- ┌ Speak clearly and slowly; it will help the children to settle
- ┌ Be aware of the pitch of your voice: use the full range and resonance
- ┌ Move deliberately and consciously

## Storytelling Tips

\* When retelling a story, it's ok if you don't get all the details from the original story, just tell it in your own words.

\*Use a theme of ongoing characters or plot (especially with your child as the star)

\*Tell stories from your childhood or family stories

\*Many times you won't have the whole story "fixed" in your mind; it will just unfold while you are telling it.

\*For inspiration, look out the window, around the room or think back over the day. Bring some of "real life" into the story.

\*Use pedagogical stories to help with behavior or to make a point in a gentle way. If your child is nervous or upset about something, create a story with animals or other characters facing the same problem.

(Healing Stories for Challenging Behaviour is an excellent book)