

# ONCE UPON A TIME WE TOLD STORIES

JESSICA EXPLORES THE STORY STONES

3 AUGUST 2016 BY HELEN



Jessica was immersed in storytelling this afternoon. I brought along some story stones I had made with my own children in the school holidays. Jessica was interested to investigate them one by one. We started off by looking at the image on each stone, organising them, and recalling events and things that we had done or knew about some of the things. The tent, fire, treasure, cave and footprint stones became the favourites for slightly scary story lines. The weather images and the insect and animal stones were key features of our real stories (non-fiction). I asked Jessica and Jack if there were any more stones we should make. What else did they want for their stories? Was there anything missing? Jessica informed me that we needed a person – yes, of course, what a good idea! Jessica then drew a girl on one of the spare stones that I had.

Over the 20-30 minutes that we played, Jessica developed confidence and familiarity with the story telling process. She told a story to Jack and I using a small selection of stones and then I heard her refine her story with separate telling's, adding some extra detail and description here and there, and changing the ending. I loved her creativity and ability to think outside the square. At one point, when someone else was using the girl stone, she adapted her story to include an invisible person! And when Jack (upon hearing an earlier version of a story) asked how the monster could see the person if they were invisible, she adapted it once again. I asked her if she would like me to write down one of her stories as she told it. Yes, she said....and so I did. This is how it went: *"Once upon a time there was a tent and there was a lightening night. And there was a tent and a car parking. A monster went into the tent and there was an invisible person, except for the feet, and he saw the feet and (so) the monster ate the invisible person – then he came back alive again and ate the monster and stayed there forever. The end"*

When I read the story she had told back out to her she looked very chuffed! I have already observed that Jessica enjoys and pays close attention to books being read and has a love for literacy. Oral story telling draws on different techniques and communication literacy skills and yet Jessica was able to adapt and embrace these. She is confident to tell stories, (both real and imagined), and shows an understanding of plot structure (beginning/middle/end), characters and listening and sharing ideas with others, both adults and other children. Wonderful stuff Jessica – I look forward to re-visiting this with you☺