

FLANNEL BOARD STORIES

Flannel board stories are a unique way to use visual and words together. Children enjoy them because the visuals are usually larger than in most books. If the visuals are hidden until they are put on the board, it keeps the children in suspense. Therefore, it promotes active listening and learning. When children are involved, they are more likely to remember. Visuals for stories can be left out in the quiet center of a room. This will give the children the opportunity to tell their own stories using the visual. This increases their language skills.

Use the following guidelines to make a flannel board story of your own.

1. **STORY:** Choose a simple story that is appropriate for the age of children to whom it will be presented. Stories should be fun and exciting and have several characters. Many stories teach morals, values and facts, and promote good habits and behaviors. Choose stories to which the children can relate. They love fun and humorous stories. Once you have chosen a story, type the story, double spaced. This will make it easier for you to read the story.
2. **VISUALS:** Select visuals that are true to life. They might only see a picture and never see the real thing. It is important for them to begin building a memory bank of actual pictures. This helps when they begin to read; they will associate pictures in their minds. Pictures can be drawn or traced from magazines or books. A great source of pictures is children's coloring books. Make sure pictures are large enough to see from about 10 feet away.

Visuals should be colorful and bright. Magic markers, Artex paints, or crayons work well when coloring the pictures.

Some quality materials from which to make pictures are colored construction paper, felt, pellow, tack bard and cardboard. Another option is to mount the picture on heavy paper and cover it with clear contact paper. All materials need to be checked to make sure they attach themselves to the flannel. If the materials do not stay, use felt, sand paper, or flannel on the back to ensure that they will stay on the board. Plain paper cutouts are not acceptable.

3. **PUTTING THE WORDS AND VISUALS TOGETHER:** Practice saying the story in your own words and using the visuals at the same time. Keep the visuals in a secret spot behind the flannel board. That way children are not able to see what picture will be put up next. This will keep their interest and attention.
4. **MAKE ALL STORIES FUN AND ENJOYABLE!**

FLANNEL BOARD STORYTELLING TECHNIQUES

1. Place the flannel board on a low table where every child will be able to see it.
2. As the storyteller, sit in such a way that the children will be able to see the board.
3. Number the figures, on the back, in order of when they appear in the story.
4. If more than one figure is on the board at a time, place them in a left to right sequence whenever possible. This is a reading-readiness skill we can teach in subtle ways such as this.
5. Keep figures out of sight until they are placed on the board so the children will not be distracted by them.
6. Place figures on the board when they appear in the story.
7. Remove figures as soon as they are no longer a part of the action of the story; keep the flannel board from getting cluttered.
8. Be sure to make flannel board figures available for children to use independently during free play. They will enjoy retelling the story and making up new stories using the same figures.
9. Allow the children to place the flannel board figures on the flannel board while the story is being told. This keeps the children attention and gets them involved in the story.

FLANNEL BOARD STORY ASSIGNMENT

You will make one flannel board story and present it in small groups during class. You may use a story that has already been made up, or you can make up one of your own. You need to have colorful figures to go along with your story. The story must be type written with indications of when and which figures are to be used.

GRADE SHEET:

	POINTS POSSIBLE	SELF- EVALUATION	POINTS EARNED
1. Bright and neat figures	10	_____	_____
2. Durability	10	_____	_____
3. Story	10	_____	_____
4. Numbered figures and story	10	_____	_____
5. Organization	10	_____	_____
6. Total	50	_____	_____