

Imagine a Story

Poetry & Language



Set up

- Set aside 30 minutes
- Prepare the kitchen table for the session
- A blank sheet of paper and a marker/pen.
- A quiet place where you can look at an image together.

Consciously Breathe

- Look your partner in the eyes and say, "Let's breathe together"
- Take three deep inhales and exhales together

Sing and Move

- Sing the song together: Row Row Row Your Boat
- Begin to make up easy movements to go with the song.
- Invite your partner to mirror your gestures.
- Repeat the song without the lyrics (use la-la-la) and enlarge the gestures.

Call and Response

- Say the words below and have your partner repeat after each line
- Start by saying, "Repeat after me."

An excerpt from “Like The Water” - Poem by Wendell Berry

*Like the water
of a deep stream,
love is always too much.
We did not make it.
Though we drink till we burst,
we cannot have it all,
or want it all.
In its abundance
it survives our thirst.*

Create Together

1. Invite your partner to join you in creating an **original** story.
 - a. You might say: *Let's make up a story together.*
 - b. *You don't need to remember anything! We can make up a new story.*
2. Invite them to look at the image and ask open-ended questions, like:
 - a. *What do you want to say is happening here?*
 - b. *What do you want to name her?*
 - c. *Where do you want to say this takes place?*
 - d. *When?*
 - e. *What sounds do you hear in the story?*
 - f. *What smells?*
 - g. *What happens next?*
3. Write down the story just as they tell it. Don't edit.
4. Repeat the story back to them as they tell it to make sure you're getting it right.
5. Write a few of your favorite lines on a postcard and mail it to a friend or family member. Select your favorite lines and who to send it to together.
6. Or go to www.timeslips.org, find the image, write your story and share it with the world.

Things to remember

- There are no wrong answers.
- Imagination thrives beyond memory.
- Remind the person -
You can say anything you like - we are just making up a story
There really are no wrong answers
- Write down and repeat back **everything** they say even if it doesn't make sense to you at the time.
- Connect. **Don't correct.**
- You are learning their language and encouraging them to practice communicating.

- Try to capture their tone, sounds, movement - people communicate with more than just words.

Summary

- **Join and Play** together.
- Hear and affirm their **unique, individual expression**.
- **Value their words**.
- **Give them control**.
- Give them access to **making meaning**.
- **Connect - *don't correct***.
- Share the gift of imagination with others.
- **Shift - from memory - to imagination!**

Celebrate Each Other

- Positively acknowledge a moment of accomplishment
- Examples “Dancing and singing with you made me smile;” “The colors you picked in the painting reminds me of sunshine;” “I loved laughing together when we said the poem.”
- Savor the moment